Louisianna

Riots-1935

Louisiana Riots Ended By Truce

Montgomery Advertiser 7-3-35

But Longshoremen Vote Virtual Embargo Against Ships Illegally Loaded

Montgomery Alabamian

LAKE CHARLES, LA., July 2.—(AP)—It was quiet along the waterfront here today with the port closed by gubernatorial order and the rival International Longshoremen's Association and Louisiana Longshoremen's Association, whose members engaged in a bloody gun battle on the docks yesterday, marking time pending results of an arbitration conference tomorrow.

Maritime and traffic associations called a meeting of the rival longshore unions, steamship interests, dock board, stevedores and other shipping interests for 10 a.m. tomorrow to bring about a peaceful settlement of the trouble.

The rival unions engaged in open warfare along the docks here yesterday leaving nine longeshoremen wounded, two critically.

Meantime, the port was deserted with only two steamships in port and activity there suspended by the order of Gov. O. K. Allen pending arbitration.

"We are not going to open the port until this difficulty is absolutely ironed out," A. A. Nelson, port director, said. He indicated he expected an agreement would enable the port to be opened within the next few days.

NEW YORK, July 2.—(AP)—Delegates of longshoremen locals of the Atlantic district of the International Longshoremen's Association served notice today on Southern shippers of a virtual embargo on ships in Southern ports carrying merchandise loaded by non-union longshoremen at Lake Charles, La.

The notice was in the form of an expression of the convention in going on record against the action of employer-shippers of Lake Charles in banning employes of the International Longshoremen's Association. The ban took effect yesterday following expiration of the Association's contract.

The interpretation of the convention's record action as a Southern embargo was made by Joseph P. Ryan, president of the I. L. A., who stressed to the delegates the need of unqualified support for Southern longshoremen.

Riots - 1935.

New Jersey

Negro Is Held After Police Instigate Riot

PLAINFIELD, N. J., May 24.—John Brewer, Negro worker of 421 Plainfield Avenue, is held under $4,000 bail for the Grand Jury in connection with a police-instigated riot here last Tuesday night, in which many Negro workers and two policemen were injured.

Mrs. Lucy Comer, 35-year-old Negro woman, 548 West Fourth Street, was fined $50 by City Judge William G. DeMeza yesterday on a charge of "agitating a crowd," when the manager of the James Butler store at 322 Plainfield Avenue, attacked Haywood Waller, Negro, 671 West Fourth Street, for protesting the inclusion of several rotten tomatoes in a purchase he was making. Waller demanded his money back, and receivel in reply a can of fruit aimed at his head.

Brewer, who was in front of the store at the time, protested and sided with the customer. Patrolman Harry Stites, the cop on the beat, appeared on the scene and ordered the two Negro workers to "get going." When they refused, he pulled out his blackjack and attacked them. The workers defended themselves and were supported by hundreds of Negroes as police reserves tumbled out of radio cars and began laying right and left with their clubs.

When John Waldron, a white man, struck Brewer on the back of the head while he was held by police, wild resentment spread through the crowd of Negro workers, and a determined attempt was made to rescue Brewer. Waldron then fled to Abrams' tavern at 330 Plainfield Avenue, and hid in the cellar.

Brewer is charged with "atrocious assault and battery." He is being defended by Leroy Jordan of Elizabeth, N. J., who is acting as his attorney.

JERSEY ITALIANS BATTLE NEGROES

Five Hurt in Riot Over Ethiopian Dispute; Louis-Carnera Fight Also Blamed

JERSEY CITY, N. J., Aug. 11 (AP) Armed bands of whites from an Italian settlement and Negroes clashed in a street fight today after arguments over the Italo-Ethiopian dispute.

Knives flashed and clubs and fists flew as more than 100 rioters met in hand-to-hand combat. One rioter used a rifle as a club.

When 20 police armed with riot guns and tear gas bombs finally broke up the battle, five rioters were taken to Jersey City medical center for treatment. Eleven persons were arrested.

Police learned that two incidents which had up to now been unreported fomented the disturbance. An Italian and his wife, they said were beaten two nights ago as they stepped from an automobile at Maxwell and Coles streets near where today's fight began.

Last night Italians and Negroes argued about the affair but the argument died down without violence.

About 3 p. m. today groups began to collect on the edge of the "village," an Italian settlement adjoining the Negro district.

Police said verbal exchanges over Joe Louis, Negro heavyweight contender who recently knocked out Primo Carnera, and the Italo-Ethiopian situation touched off the battle.

WARD-HEELERS BLAMED AFTER JERSEY RIOTS

Negro Area Invaded by Young Bands of Italian Hoodlums

The constant bullying of Jersey City Negroes by Italian ward-heelers belonging to the Frank Hague-Michael A. Scatuorchio political machine, and not the impending Ethiopian-Italian war was being blamed yesterday for the riot which broke out there Sunday afternoon when arrogant bands of young Italians conducted one of their frequent sorties in the Negro neighborhood.

At the same time, Jersey City residents were charging that the influence of the Hague-Scatuorchio Democratic machine was being used to aid the three Italians and persecute the eight Negroes arrested as a result of the conflict which took place in the Negro section. Three of the Negroes were arrested several blocks from the scene more than an hour after the rioting and held without bail because they carried pen knives in their pockets.

Yet, the same Jersey City police refused to arrest bands of young Italian hoodlums who paraded up and down Railroad avenue several hours after the rioting and shouted "Viva Italia! Viva Mussolini! to Hell with Haile" and more direct insults to the colored residents of this area.

The street fighting, participated in by more than 150 members of both races, broke out at Railroad avenue and Coles street, along the Midway section Sunday afternoon, after Edward Ruff, 40, 220 Railroad avenue, had accused Daniel Turi, Jr., 17-year-old son of the "standard bearer" of the Daniel Turi Democratic Club of the Third Ward, of clubbing him over the head with the butt of a .22 calibre repeating rifle. The incident followed a second sortie into the Negro section by young Italian hoodlums from the adjoining blocks. They had invaded the neighborhood on the previous night, Saturday, but the Negroes had ignored their provocative actions.

After Ruff had allegedly been felled by young Turi, however, the two races clashed and engaged in fierce street fighting for a quarter of an hour before Detective William Tierney and Patrolman Timothy Crimmins of the First Precinct turned in a riot call which brought six radio cars, six sedans and two emergency squad trucks to the scene. A medical Center ambulance was also summoned.

Breaking up the fighting, the police confiscated Turi's rifle and arrested him on a charge of atrocious assault and battery The same charge was preferred against Rober Booker, 34, 222 Railroad avenue, whom Turi accused of slashing him on the left side of the neck during the fray. Michael Teresi, 20-year-old, red-headed Italian, was arrested on the complaint of Marion Holmes, 28, 204 Railroad avenue, who accused the Italian of assaulting him with a baseball bat.

Both of the Negro complainants, Ruff and Holmes, were arrested as material witnesses after they had identified Turi and Teresi in the police station as their assailants. Also held as material witnesses were two Negro CCC workers, James Hudson, 28, 214 Railroad avenue, and Chester Wooten, 18, 218 Railroad avenue, and Robert Catrillo, 38-year-old Italian. Ruff, Holmes, Booker and Turi were treated for injuries.

Three Seized Later.

Two hours after the rioting, police seized three Negroes, James Byrd, 25, 62 Newark avenue; Ernest Miller, 30, 314 Fifth street, and Henry Stalling, 21, 62 Newark avenue, at First and Monmouth streets, several blocks away from the scene of the outbreak When a search revealed that the three men carried pen knives in their pockets, the police accused them of planning further hostilities and locked them up for possession of "dangerous weapons."

On Sunday night, however, a large band of Italian hoodlums paraded through the Negro section hurling insults at Negro residents and shouting "Viva Mussolini! To Hell With Haile! Viva Italia." No arrests were made.

By Monday morning when the arrested men were arraigned in court, the Hague-Scatuorchio machine moved into action. Despite the fact that Ruff had identified Turi as his assailant in the police station Sunday night before a group of reporters, including the representative of The Amsterdam News, he found himself strangely unable to identify the son of the Hague follower in Court Monday.

As a result, young Turi was freed of the atrocious assault charge and held in $500 bail as a material witness. Turi, however, easily identified Booker as the Negro who had slashed him and the latter was held in $1,000 bail for the grand jury. Teresi, the red-headed Italian who appeared in court with a rabbit's foot for luck, found out that kinship with a Hague petty politician might have brought better results. He was held in $1,000 bail on the assault charge preferred by Holmes.

Holmes, the complainant, was held in $500 bail as a material witness as was Turi, Ruff, Booker, Wooten, Hudson and Catrillo. The threee men nabbed two hours after the riot at First and Monmouth streets, were held without bail on the "dangerous weapon" charge.

A heavy police guard still patrolled the riot area yesterday, but Jersey City residents were convinced that further hostilities would break out unless something was done to curb the arrogance of the Hague-Scaruorchio ward-heelers who insisted upon bullying the Negroes in the area.

Riots-1935 I New York

NEW YORK SUN

MAR 20 1935

150 IN CELLS AND 30 IN HOSPITALS AFTER NIGHT OF RIOTING IN HARLEM

Negroes Wreck and Loot Shops and Attack Whites in Frenzy of Hatred.

BOY THIEF CAUSES TROUBLE

Police Shoot Into Mob Egged On by Red Leaflets—Damage Put at 200,000.

More than 150 men and women are in the custody of the police today and facing arraignment on charges of rioting, inciting to riot, assault and looting, while more than thirty lie seriously wounded in the city's hospitals and almost a hundred are suffering from broken heads, bruises, cuts and contusions as the result of a riot which started in a 5-and-10-cent store at 125th street late yesterday and raged throughout the Negro district until early today.

Seven hundred extra police, including emergency squads, radio cars and detectives, were drawn from all parts of Greater New York to battle with a frenzied and race-crazed mob which at times reached the proportion of 3,000 screaming men and women who tore through the streets wrecking stores, shattering windows and as their race consciousness was fanned to an insane heat by circulars distributed by a communistic group, attacked defenseless white pedestrians and for a time held off a small army of 500 police.

Harlem from 125th street to 130th street is a shambles today. Debris, broken glass, brickbats and clothing are strewn over the sidewalks and the district gives the appearance of a war-torn village.

600 Windows Are Smashed.

More than 600 plate windows give mute and shattered testimony to the fury of the mob. Stores have been looted and doors ripped from their hinges and police estimate that the plunder recovered so far today will fill a ton truck.

Damage to stores from broken windows, smashed doors and looted merchandise has been placed at between $200,000 and $300,000, although merchants of the district say that the figure will be much greater after a more thorough checkup.

A force of 150 extra policemen patrols the streets of the colored district today, bringing the force in the neighborhood up to about 300. Patrol cars prowl the principal streets and the police are walking in couples as they await the first sign of another outbreak.

A force of extra detectives, numbering about 100, has taken up strategic positions throughout the district and despite Chief Inspector David J. McAuliffe's statement that he believed that "the situation is well in hand" and that no further trouble is expected, no precaution is being neglected.

Stick of Candy Causes Riot.

The spark to kindle the ever present fires of racial friction which smolder below the surface in the country's largest Negro settlement was generated by the greed of an fifteen-year-old Negro boy for a 5-cent bar of candy.

In an incredibly short time the streets were filled with a howling raging mob which swept through the district, looting stores, shattering plate glass windows, falling with hysterical fury on white pedestrians and successfully holding off more than five hundred policemen who were dispatched to the scene.

Bands of Negroes roved through the streets, hurling bricks and clubs, their fury fanned by incendiary circulars distributed by a communistic group which in bold type shrieked the news that "A Child Brutally Beaten," "A Twelve-Year-Old Child Was Brutally Beaten for Stealing a Knife from a Five and Ten Cent Store." "Workers Protest Against This Lynch Attack."

The trouble started when a Negro boy, identified by police as Lini Rivera of 272 Morningside avenue, snatched at a 5-cent candy bar on one of the counters of the S. H. Kress & Co. store at 256 West 125th street. As he turned to dart through the front door the manager, Jackson Smith and two clerks closed in on him.

Customers in Panic.

In a panic the boy made for the rear of the store and balked in his flight by the absence of an exit he turned upon his pursuers and as they grasped his arms screamed, kicked and bit at the hands of his captors. By the time the manager and the two employees, who were severely bitten about the hands, had forced him into an office the 500 customers who were in the store had been thrown into a panic.

Emotional Negro women shouted that the boy was being beaten and this information was quickly relayed to the curious crowds which had gathered in front of the store. By the time the word had been passed the length of the block Negro men and women were crying that the boy had been beaten and kicked to death.

In the store the customers had been galvanized into a frenzy of sabotage. Glass in the counters was shattered, tables overturned and merchandise torn and hurled about. In his office the manager alarmd, at the anger of the mob and ascertaining the minor nature of the eleven-year-old boy's offense. released him and went to the front of the store in an attempt to restore order. Unnoticed the boy slipped from the building and was lost in the shouting mob.

In the street Patrolman Timothy Shannon saw the temper of the mob and without attempting to discover the trouble sent in a call to the West 123rd street station. In response to the request two emergency squads arrived on the scene and the police forced their way into the store and managed to restore a semblance of order. An hour later the mob had been dispersed and to all intents the residents, having indulged themselves in an emotional orgy, had returned to their homes or labors.

Agitators Begin Picketing.

By 6 o'clock the street had been cleared and the counters of the store somewhat restored to their normal state when a group of agitators, two white and two Negroes arrived in front of the establishment and took up picket posts carrying placards of the Young Liberators League, which shouted in type that "Kress brutally beats and seriously injures Negro child."

A crowd gathered quickly and Daniel Miller, unemployed, of 1287 Southern Boulevard, the Bronx leaped to a soap box and harangued the rapidly gathering mob. In a few minutes the crowd had grown to more than a thousand and Miller's exhortations played upon their credulity until whispers that the boy had been murdered began to creep around the fringe of the restive mob.

Suddenly a milk bottle crashed through a plate glass window of the store and this was almost immediately followed by a brick, which demolished the other sheet of glass. By the time the police arrived for the second time the pack was in full cry and the air was filled with stones, jagged pieces of bricks, sticks and every object capable of being hurled, in reach.

The police strove desperately to check the Negroes and had partially succeeded in forcing them away from the front of the store and down 125th street, when one of those grim coincidences of fate, a hearse, drove up and stopped at a house opposite the rear of the store.

Incited by Woman.

The vehicle caught the eye of a Negro woman and her piercing scream lifted itself above the hoarse shouts of the mob.

"Yonder's the hearse come to take the boy's body from the store!"

There was no checking the mob after that. Leaping and tumbling about and with the slow and deadly drive it swept over the police.

Up from 124th street the mob surged smashing and looting, tearing out doors, shattering windows in clothing, grocery and jewelry stores and sending white pedestrians frantically scurrying for cover.

Meanwhile police reenforcements had arrived. All available reserves, uniformed police and detectives, radio cars and mounted patrolmen sought to disperse the screaming horde. They arrested the ringleaders and others stepped up to take the leaders' places.

The appearance of the police only seemed to increase the fury of the mob, which now numbered about 3,000. The crack of revolver shots bit into the din. Seven men reeled under the impact of the bullets and knives were whipped from pockets and used indiscriminately.

By 9 o'clock the riot was at its height and a small army of police under the command of Chief Inspector John J. Seery and Deputy Chief Inspector David J. McAuliffe made a desperate effort to get the situation in hand.

Mob Finally Forced Back.

In the face of flying rocks and clubs the police forced the mob back until it broke up into small roving mobs which prowled the city throughout the night, sniping from roof tops and dark alleys at squads of police who were hurling themselves over the district in answer to riot calls.

Six police were injured in the melee and two more were involved in an automobile accident while returning from the scene of the riot. Detective Nicholas Campo was shot in the hand by his own gun when he captured a Negro raider in a grocery store at 2365 Eighth avenue early today.

Three plate-glass windows in a cigar store at the northwest corner of 125th street and Seventh avenue were shattered by bricks.

The police made numerous arrests as the night wore on, mainly for rioting and for thefts from stores.

Paul Boytt, 28, of 310 West 127th street, a Negro, was shot in the back. Patrolman George Conn of the West 152d street station said he had seen Boytt and several others jumping on Timothy Murphy, 29, of 44 Moylan Place, shortly after 9 P. M. on 127th street, between Eighth and St. Nicholas avenues.

Wounds a Negro.

Conn fired one shot in the air and the group fled. The policeman said he had ordered Boytt to halt and had fired one shot at him when he refused. Boytt was taken to the Harlem Hospital, as was Murphy, who received a broken nose.

Detective Henry Rowge of the East 123d street station was cut on the head and face by a rock which, after hitting him, bounced through the plate glass window of a store in 125th street near Seventh avenue. Rowge arrested James Hughes, 24, a Negro, of 1890 Seventh avenue, as the rock thrower accused him of felonious assault.

Max Newman, 38, proprietor of a grocery store at 2274 Eighth avenue, near 119th street, told the police that when he emerged from his store after closing it, about 9 P. M., one woman and five Negro men pounced on him, knocking him down and kicking him in the face.

Another casualty was Ebbs Brewer, 28* a Daily News photographer, who was felled by some Negroes in front of the Hote Theresa, Seventh Avenue and 125th street. Brewer went by taxicab to the Harlem Hospital suffering from cuts on the head.

Patrolman Charles Robins, 35, of the Westchester Station in the Bronx, suffered a scalp wound from a brick and was taken to the Harlem Hospital.

Emergency Squads Out.

Inspector McAuliffe ordered six emergency squads to stand by near the corner of 125th street and Seventh avenue, while twenty-five radio cars, mounted and foot patrolmen and plainclothes detectives scoured the entire area, arresting troublemakers and saving several white persons from severe beatings.

Douglas Cornelius, 22, a Negro, of 52 East 118th street, was locked up in the West 123d street station last night on a charge of felonious assault, made by Mounted Patrolman Walter MacKenzie of Troop D. Cornelius was accused of seriously injuring an unidentified white man at 226 West 125th street as a mob of 300 Negroes attacked a group of white men.

3-20-35

Julius Nardstich, 34, of 400 West 128th street, was attacked by three Negroes at Eighth avenue and 147th street. He was taken to Knickerbocker Hospital in a serious condition from a severe head injury, laceration of the scalp, face and left hand.

De Soto Windgate, 24, a Negro, of 7 East 114th street, was taken to Harlem Hospital in a serious condition after being shot in the abdomen in 144th street, between Seventh and Lenox avenues.

Negro Sent to Bellevue.

Robert Narbrook, 19, a Negro, of 176 East 127th street, was sent to Bellevue Hospital for medical observation shortly before 3 A. M. after he had been found at 127th street and Seventh avenue.

Returning from duty in the riot zone in Harlem, a patrol wagon containing members of Police Emergency Squad No. 16, attached to the Herbert street, Brooklyn station, was struck by an automobile at First avenue and Seventy-sixth street shortly after 1 A. M. Two policemen and a passenger in the car were injured.

Sergt. William McCarthy, of 63-32 Sixtieth Road, Ridgewood, Queens, suffered laceration of both hands and the right eye and contusions of the head. Patrolman John Mahoney of 1911 Ralph street, Queens, suffered a fracture of the left arm, and Thomas McGinnis of 643 East 170th street, the Bronx, a passenger in the car, suffered a lacerated scalp. McCarthy and McGinnis went home after being treated by Dr. Dyckman of City Hospital, who took Mahoney to that institution.

Caught Negro Looting.

James Thompson, 19, a Negro, of 202 St. Nicholas avenue, was shot in the right chest and seriously wounded when he was found looting an A. & P. grocery store at 2365 Eighth avenue, shortly after 5 o'cock by a detective after a gun battle. The detective was shot in the litle finger of the left hand and a passerby was shot in the left leg.

Detective Campo of the West 100th street station, saw Thompson enter the store and followed him. Cornered in the store Thompson started shooting. Campo crouched behind a box and fired once at the Negro, hitting him in the chest. Thompson surrendered.

During the fusillade Stanley Dondoro, 34, a chauffeur of 507 Grand street, Hoboken, was shot in the left leg. He was walking on the other side of Eighth avenue with a friend, Francis Storey, of 122 East Thirty-fourth street. One of the bullets pssed through Storey's pants leg and struck Dondoro. He was taken to Harlem Hospital, as was Thompson, who was charged with burglary.

Negro Boy Is Found.

While fifty Negroes were being booked in the West 123d street station early today for participating in the rioting, Deputy Chief Inspector Francis J. Kear said:

"The boy who originally figured in the story has been found. There is no use in making any rash statements now. We are going into the causes of this situation and we will make a full investigation.

Seven hundred patrolmen and detectives remained on duty during the early hours while sporadic disorders continued. Small groups of Negroes gathered, assaulted lone white pedestrians or smashed windows and fled at the approach of policemen. Often patrolmen and detectives fired into the air to disperse the rioters.

Throughout the night Harlem was a bedlam with shots, the screeching of radio cars, the sounds of converging fire apparatus responding to the numerous false alarms, the shrilling of burglar alarms in stores where windows had been smashed, and the shouts of rioters displacing the usual calm.

Stores at 133d street nad Lenox avenue and 429 Lenox avenue were apparently set on fire by the rioters. In each case the damage was confined to the store.

Shortly after 2 A. M. the Negro boy who caused the trouble was taken to the West 123d street station from his home at 272 Manhattan avenue by Patrolman Alfred Eldridge of the Crime Prevention Bureau.

Boy Admits Theft.

The boy readily admitted theft of the pocketknife. He said that the floorwalkers were ushering him from the store and then he bit them on the hands. One slapped his face. He prompted the story that he had been murdered. The floorwalkers took him back into the store when the disorder outside grew and obtained his name and address. In recording the address, they wrote Morningside instead of Manhattan avenue.

Since the Kress concern had refused to make a complaint, there was no charge on which to hold the youth. He sat alone, an indifferent and incongruous picture in comparison to the hysteria and police activity he had caused.

James Lalor, 23, of 7 Ludlow street, was charged with inciting to riot in front of 478 Lenox avenue.

Charles Alston, 21, a Negro, of 512 West 153d street, was taken to Harlem Hospital in a dying condition early today after he had leaped from the roof of a six-story tenement at 101 West 138th street, where he and three other Negroes had been firing at a policemen on post at 138th street and Lenox avenue. The other three Negroes were captured on the roof.

Falls Four Stories.

Alston fell four floors to a ledge at the second floor of an adjoining building. He crawled into a window and under a bed, terrifying the occupants of the apartment, who notified the police. Alston was arrested and taken with the other three prisoners to the West 135th street station, where, after being questioned and booked, he slumped to the floor.

Patrolmen Jerry Brennan and Stephen McGrady, of the Morrisania Station, on duty in the riot area in a radio car, went to Lenox avenue and 138th street when they received an alarm that Negroes were shooting from the roof of a building. They went to the roof of 101 West 138th street and found the four Negroes there. Alston attempted to jump to the roof of an adjoining building, a distance of six feet, but missed and fell.

The other three described themselves as Albert Yerber, 20, of 106 Edgecombe avenue, Ed Loper, 21, of 298 West 138th street, and Ernest Jackson, 22, of 206 West 140th street. All were booked on charges of disorderly conduct. Alston did not appear to be injured when he was arrested.

Two Shops Set on Fire.

A large crowd gathered outside Raffers radio service, 130th street and Lenox avenue this morning when the store began burning and shouted, "Let it burn," to firemen who arrived. The origin of this fire and the one in a hardware store at 429 Lenox avenue was believed incendiary.

Officials at Harlem Hospital estimated that they had attended about seventy persons during the evening and morning who had been injured in the rioting. Columbus and Knickerbocker hospitals also reported a number of persons attended, most of them for minor injuries. The police believe that over 100 persons were injured as a result of the disorders, many of those injured preferring to be attended by their own physicians.

Wilmot Henry, 29, of 214 West 146th street, a Negro, was shot in the back at 128th street and Lenox avenue and was taken to Harlem Hospital in a critical condition.

Victor Fein, 19, of 100 West 113th street, a Negro, came to Harlem Hospital in a taxicab, suffering from a gunshot wound of the left ankle he said he had received at Seventh avenue and 128th street.

August Miller, 57, of 1674 Macombs Road, the Bronx, was taken to the Hospital for Joint Diseases from 125th street and Lenox avenue, suffering from a severe head injury.

Hotel Is Damaged.

Detectives are coming Harlem in an effort to locate the source of the inflammatory circulars distributed by communists to incite the Negro mob to further violence. They traced a rumor to an address on 125th street, but found that while the address was that of a printing shop the establishment was closed.

Riots - 1935 II

New York

STORE WINDOW DAMAGED AFTER THIEF CHASE

New York Sun 3-20-35

Sun Staff Photo.

View of broken window in the Kress store in 125th street after the riot that followed the arrest of Lino Rivera, 16 years old, who was accused of stealing from the Harlem store.

PRISONERS TAKEN IN HARLEM RIOT ON WAY TO LINE-UP

Sun Staff Photo.

In the group outside the 123d street police station are Harry Gordon, Daniel Miller, Claude Diabalo and a man who described himself as Jamieson. They were removed to Police Headquarters today.

NEW YORK JOURNAL

MAR 20 1935

RACE RIOTING FLARES AGAIN IN HARLEM STORE.

Two Negro boys, about 14 years old, went into a grocery store owned by Isaac S. Pekin at 371 Lenox ave. this afternoon, and threw canned goods and other articles about. Terrified by the rioting of last night, during which the windows of his store were broken, Pekin called for police aid when between 500 and 600 quarrelsome Negroes gathered outside his store and threatened him. An emergency squad and radio patrolmen responded and after three or four charges into the mob, the Negroes, uttering threats, were dispersed.

New York Mirror

MAR 31 1935

Harlem Relief Lacking, Charge at Riot Hearing

Charges that Harlem's jobless and hungry receive less relief than do the needy in other parts of the city brought roars of wrath from radicals who thronged the hearing yesterday of the Mayor's Committee on the causes of last week's rioting in Harlem that resulted in four deaths and much property damage.

The accusation of discrimination was hurled in Washington Heights Municipal Court by Robert Minor, who shouted, amidst the murmurs of spectators, that next Saturday, when the committee continues its inquiry, he will produce "witnesses, addresses, cases, and dates" to substantiate what he said.

Arthur Garfield Hays, liberal lawyer assigned by Mayor LaGuardia to preside at the hearings, had earlier locked horns with Joseph W. Ford, Harlem Negro Communist and Vice-Presidential candidate on the Communist ticket in 1932.

COERCION CHARGED.

Ford demanded instant hearing of radical charges that the Kress Chain Stores, whose branches at 125th St. saw the start of the riot, had "bought off" witness Lino Rivera, the colored youth whose reported "beating" touched off the violence.

Warning by William J. Shiefflin that Joseph Tauber, attorney for the International Labor Defense, treat witnesses with politeness, was another highlight of the day.

Capt. Conrad H. Rothengast, in charge of detectives in Harlem on the night of the riot, on the stand when Minor made his charge, denied knowledge of discrimination in relief against Harlem's unemployed and needy.

Police Inspector John J. Di Martino, on duty in Harlem for 25 years, caused some amusement by his attitude of shock that such a thing as the rioting of last week could have occurred in a territory in which he has "so many good friends."

Garfield Hayes. Robert Minor.

The testimony of young Rivera was entirely friendly to the management of the Kress branch store.

"Sure, I stole a little knife off a counter," young Rivera had cheerfully testified as the day's first witness. "And two clerks said they were going to take me into the basement and beat me up. But that was just to scare me. They didn't hurt me at all."

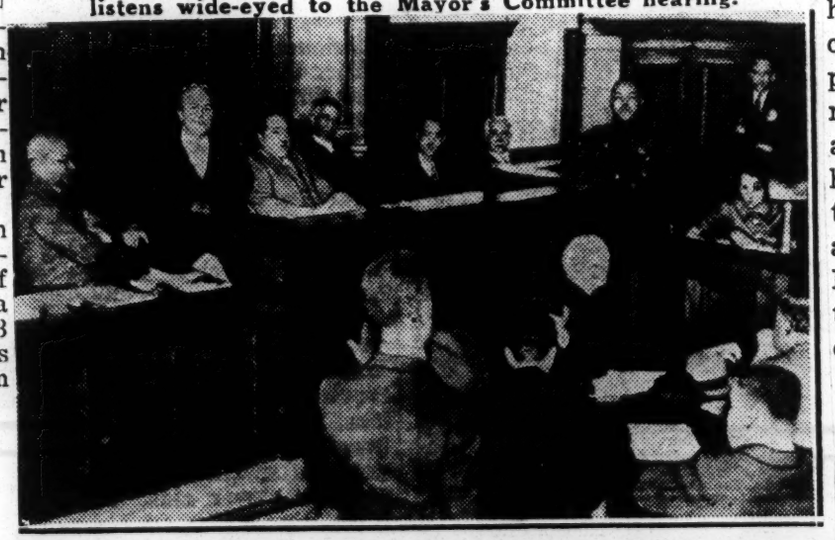
It was from this testimony that Joseph Tauber of the International Labor Defense arrived at his conclusion, vociferously maintained, that "there is a suspicion here that the store and the police made a deal with this boy, offering to drop theft charges against him if he in turn agreed to deny being beaten up by strong-arm counter guards."

The angry debate over Rivera and his testimony lasted through the first session and delayed until Monday, when the hearings resume, the inquiry into the origin of 5,000 incendiary pamphlets advocating "Revenge for the murder of Martyr Rivera" which, distributed to milling pedestrians in 125th St., aroused them to their riot frenzy.

The fourth death resulting from the Harlem riots occurred yesterday. Floyd Hobbs, 16, colored, of 321 St. Nicholas Pl., struck by a police bullet while in front of 203 W. 125th St., succumbed to his injuries at 6:30 p. m. in Harlem Hospital.

The Boy on the Left Started It

Seated (extreme left) is Lino Rivera, the 16-year-old Porto Rican whose knife-filching episode turned Harlem into a near wreck on the night of March 19. In Washington Heights Municipal Court he listens wide-eyed to the Mayor's Committee hearing.



Police Lieut. Samuel J. Battle takes the stand (right) to give an eye-witness story of what happened in Harlem on the riotous night of March 19. Behind the judge's bench at Washington Heights Court are (front left), Judge Toney, Arthur Garfield Hayes and Col. William J. Schiefflin, during the Mayor's Committee hearing.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
March 26, 1935

Trouble In The Promised Land

Because jobless, unemployed, hungry Negroes, crowded in New York's black slum of Harlem, are said to constitute a "powder keg which can be set off at the slightest impact," the New York State Department of Labor is seeking Federal aid to transport the Negroes back to their homes in the South. Certainly from the New York standpoint much can be said for this plan as a means of "relieving the distress in Harlem where thousands are literally stranded with bare subsistence." Possibly both these destitute Negroes and the community in which they are crowded might be safer if they were dispersed again on the land from which they came. It is at least worth considering, however, that in the South from which they were lured with promises of high wages and good living the relief rolls are already crowded with those who stayed behind.

Here is a particularly ugly example of using human beings as long as there is profit to be made out of them and throwing them down and out as soon as that profit is ended. Not by any means all of the Negroes in the North moved North of their own volition. A decade ago Southern employers were complaining of the practices of Northern employers who wanted cheap labor and to get it sent recruiting agents into sections of the South to recruit bodies of black workers with promises of higher wages than they were receiving in the South. Southern employers protested without any real right to protest. The Negro is a free agent and has a right to go where he will. Many Negroes still believe that the Negro is better off and has a better chance North of the Mason-Dixon line. But the North can now think of nothing for them but tickets South.

Times have drastically changed. In the South, even on the land in the South, there seem to be more Negroes than work for Negroes to do, if the relief rolls furnish an adequate measure. In the North where employers were so anxious for cheap, black labor that they sent out recruiting officers to get it, the Negroes are not only no longer wanted but in their crowded idleness and hunger they are damned as dangerous, as an explosive angry body of black men which must be shipped back to the South.

Slavery is gone in the South. Now in strange crowded streets stresses the superior justice and we no longer have slavery anywhere in the United States: We have instead a system under which men may be transported across a nation to work for cheap wages in good times and then flung down like trash to starve in a new country and sectional anger at a North which higher wages of the North to Negroes in order to get their labor in good times but which can think of nothing but a train to carry them back to the South when times are bad and Negroes go angry and hungry in the streets of the Promised Land.

times are not good. No sensible Southerner claims that his South plays a perpetual Santa Claus to the Negroes. But the imperfect Southerner does have difficulty in repressing a type of anger at a North which

New York Mirror

MAR 31 1935

Harlem Relief Lacking, Charge at Riot Hearing

Charges that Harlem's jobless and hungry receive less relief than do the needy in other parts of the city brought roars of wrath from radicals who thronged the hearing yesterday of the Mayor's Committee on the causes of last week's rioting in Harlem that resulted in four deaths and much property damage.

The accusation of discrimination was hurled in Washington Heights Municipal Court by Robert Minor, who shouted, amidst the murmurs of spectators, that next Saturday, when the committee continues its inquiry, he will produce "witnesses, addresses, cases, and dates" to substantiate what he said.

Arthur Garfield Hays, liberal lawyer assigned by Mayor LaGuardia to preside at the hearings, had earlier locked horns with Joseph W. Ford, Harlem Negro Communist and Vice-Presidential candidate on the Communist ticket in 1932.

COERCION CHARGED.

Ford demanded instant hearing of radical charges that the Kress Chain Stores, whose branches at 125th St. saw the start of the riot, had "bought off" witness Lino Rivera, the colored youth whose reported "beating" touched off the violence.

Warning by William J. Shiefelin that Joseph Tauber, attorney for the International Labor Defense, treat witnesses with politeness, was another highlight of the day.

Capt. Conrad H. Rothengast, in charge of detectives in Harlem on the night of the riot, on the stand when Minor made his charge, denied knowledge of discrimination in relief against Harlem's unemployed and needy.

Police Inspector John J. Di Martino, on duty in Harlem for 25 years, caused some amusement by his attitude of shock that such a thing as the rioting of last week could have occurred in a territory in which he has "so many good friends."

Garfield Hayes. Robert Minor.

The testimony of young Rivera was entirely friendly to the management of the Kress branch store.

"Sure, I stole a little knife off a counter," young Rivera had cheerfully testified as the day's first witness. "And two clerks said they were going to take me into the basement and beat me up. But that was just to scare me. They didn't hurt me at all."

It was from this testimony that Joseph Tauber of the International Labor Defense arrived at his conclusion, vociferously maintained, that "there is a suspicion here that the store and the police made a deal with this boy, offering to drop theft charges against him if he in turn agreed to deny being beaten up by strong-arm counter guards."

The angry debate over Rivera and his testimony lasted through the first session and delayed until Monday, when the hearings resume, the inquiry into the origin of 5,000 incendiary pamphlets advocating "Revenge for the murder of Martyr Rivera" which, distributed to milling pedestrians in 125th St., aroused them to their riot frenzy.

The fourth death resulting from the Harlem riots occurred yesterday. Floyd Hobbs, 16, colored, of 321 St. Nicholas Pl., struck by a police bullet while in front of 203 W. 125th St., succumbed to his injuries at 6:30 p. m. in Harlem Hospital.

The Boy on the Left Started It

Seated (extreme left) is Lino Rivera, the 16-year-old- Porto Rican whose knife-filching episode turned Harlem into a near wreck on the night of March 19. In Washington Heights Municipal Court he listens wide-eyed to the Mayor's Committee hearing.

Police Lieut. Samuel J. Battle takes the stand (right) to give an eye-witness story of what happened in Harlem on the riotous night of March 19. Behind the judge's bench at Washington Heights Court are (front left), Judge Toney, Arthur Garfield Hayes and Col. William J. Schiefflin, during the Mayor's Committee hearing.

Raleigh, N. C. Observer
March 26, 1935

Trouble In The Promised Land

Because jobless, unemployed, hungry Negroes, crowded in New York's black slum of Harlem, are said to constitute a "powder keg which can be set off at the slightest impact," the New York State Department of Labor is seeking Federal aid to transport the Negroes back to their homes in the South. Certainly from the New York standpoint much can be said for this plan as a means of "relieving the distress in Harlem where thousands are literally stranded with bare subsistence." Possibly both these destitute Negroes and the community in which they are crowded might be safer if they were dispersed again on the land from which they came. It is at least worth considering, however, that in the South from which they were lured with promises of high wages and good living the relief rolls are already crowded with those who stayed behind.

Here is a particularly ugly example of using human beings as long as there is profit to be made out of them and throwing them down and out as soon as that profit is ended. Not by any means all of the Negroes in the North moved North of their own volition. A decade ago Southern employers were complaining of the practices of Northern employers who wanted cheap labor and to get it sent recruiting agents into sections of the South to recruit bodies of black workers with promises of higher wages than they were receiving in the South. Southern employers protested without any real right to protest. The Negro is a free agent and has a right to go where he will. Many Negroes still believe that the Negro is better off and has a better chance North of the Mason-Dixon line. But the North can now think of nothing for them but tickets South.

Times have drastically changed. In the South, even on the land in the South, there seem to be more Negroes than work for Negroes to do, if the relief rolls furnish an adequate measure. In the North where employers were so anxious for cheap, black labor that they sent out recruiting officers to get it, the Negroes are not only no longer wanted but in their crowded idleness and hunger they are damned as dangerous, as an explosive angry body of black men which must be shipped back to the South.

Slavery is gone in the South. Now in strange crowded streets where the superior justice and higher wages of the North to Negroes in order to get their labor in good times but which can think of nothing but a train to carry them back to the South when times are bad and Negroes go angry and hungry in the streets of the Promised Land.

we no longer have slavery anywhere in the United States: We have instead a system under which men may be transported across a nation to work for cheap wages in good times and then flung down like trash to starve in a new country and

No sensible Southerner claims that his South plays a perpetual Santa Claus to the Negroes. But the imperfect Southerner does have difficulty in repressing a type of sectional anger at a North which

Riots—1935

New York

BROOKLYN, N. Y. JUL 14 1935
TIMES UNION

Mob Stones Four Policemen In Clashes in Colored Area

Men, Women and Children Take Part in Riots When Dice Shooters Are Arrested.

Four detectives were stoned and beaten in a wild rio at Ralph ave. and Dean st., yesterday afternoon, when the were attacked by a mob of colored men, women and chil dren after two boy dice-shooters they had arreste screamed, "the white men are killing us."

After the officers had fired six shots in the air to summon help, a police emergency truck and five radio cars screamed into the section and beat back the mob with their clubs, arrested two colored men who were taken to the Atlantic ave. station charged with assault.

The injured detectives who were treated at the Atlantic ave. station by Dr. Sickenberger of St. Mary's Hospital for cuts and bruises, later were able to go home. They are Detectives Harold Gatens, Robert Connors and Dennis Donovan, all of the 13th Inspection District staff.

The prisoners held on assault charges are:

Milton Fletcher, 24, of 2040 Fulton st., and Henry Urguhardt, 36, of 489 Cumberland st.

Second Riot Starts

A couple of hours later, as a result of the intense feeling between the residents of the section, another riot broke out at Bergen st. and Howard ave., which resulted in the injury of another policeman and the arrest of a colored boy and girl. The injured policeman was Samuel Eitowsky, of the Bergen st. station, who lives at 398 Howard ave. He was treated for cuts and bruises by Dr. Springer, of Unity Hospital, and went home.

The youngsters under arrest are Joseph Hanison, 17, and his sister, Loretto, 13.

Shortly after 2 o'clock the detectives broke up a street crap game on Dean st., near Ralph ave., and arrested two youths who had been participants. The prisoners screamed for help. The cry was taken up by others in the neighborhood, which is thickly populated by colored people.

With amazing suddenness men, women and children came rushing out of nearby houses and intent on going to the aid of the youths whom the detectives were trying to lead away. Several appeared with weapons, police said. Others who had not stopped to arm themselves picked up sticks, stones and garbage cans as they ran to the rescue. All seemed intent on being the first to reach the officers.

As missiles started flying through the air, the first of the attackers reached the officers and started hand-to-hand fighting. The detectives, still holding on to their prisoners, fought back as best they could, but when the mob grew to over 100 excited attackers, the weight of numbers told and the prisoners were torn from their grasp.

The officers managed to fight it out together and reached a nearby doorway where they had their first opportunity to draw their revolvers.

At the sight of the drawn guns, the excitement of the crowd increased and stones and sticks filled the air. Threatening to "shoot," the policemen held the crowd at bay a few moments but the stones and garbage cans continued to be thrown at them. Finally they fired six shots, two each in the air to attract help.

Radio Police Called

Someone notified police headquarters and a radio alarm was immediately broadcast. Five radio cars swarmed into the neighborhood with Emergency Squad 14.

The police immediately plunged into the mob, clubbing their way to their besieged comrades. The mob quickly dispersed when the reinforcements arrived.

In the meantime trolleys on Ralph ave. had been halted by the rioters. It was reported that several windows in the cars were broken and that several white men joined the police in their charge on the mob which menaced the officers. The rioting lasted nearly a half hour.

Conditions in Harlem

AFTER MORE than four months of examining witnesses publicly and privately, the Mayor's Commission on Conditions in Harlem has issued two reports which may not be regarded as other than indictments against city authorities, necessitating an immediate program to eliminate the evils cited. The reports—on schools and police brutality—might, with few changes, have been written about conditions in a large city in the far South, where no one pretends that the Negro has actual or theoretical equality before the law.

Read this excerpt from the report on causes of the riot as given to Mayor LaGuardia:

"It is a grave state of affairs when the inhabitants of a large section of the city have come to look upon the men in police uniforms as lawless oppressors who stop at no brutality or at the taking of human life. This feeling dates back over a long period and the measure of its intensity may be judged from the fact that the feeling expressed at our hearings was just as strong against the colored police, of whom there are 110 on duty in Harlem, as against the white.

"The existence of intense hostility on the part of the law-abiding element among the colored people toward the police is proof positive that there is something seriously wrong in the attitude of the officers toward the people whom they are there to serve and to aid and not to browbeat or abuse."

That the abusive attitude of certain officers transcends mere discourtesy and roughness is stated in these words:

"It is indefensibly bad police work when two armed police officers cannot arrest an unarmed man in broad daylight in a public building without beating him up and gouging out an eye."

After describing the fatal shooting and slugging of citizens whose only crimes were curiosity or disorderly conduct, the report urges:

"That the Police Commissioner arrange for the appointment of a committee of from five to seven Harlem citizens of both white and Negro races, to whom Negroes could make complaints against mistreatment by the police.

"That policemen who overstep their authority or violate the law in their dealings with Negroes should be investigated not only by the Police Commissioner, but also by the District Attorney, so that indictments might be sought when warranted.

"That a system be devised whereby the police, when faced with grave disorders, would be in a position to distribute circulars giving authoritative information. In this way, the spread of such an unfounded rumor as incited the March riot could be checked.

"That every effort be made to eliminate the underlying causes of unrest in Harlem, unemployment, overcrowding, discrimination."

The report on schools is no less indicative of utter disregard for the interests of Negroes. It observes that Harlem pupils are housed, in many instances, in firetraps lacking proper sanitary facilities, and surrounded by immoral and illegal influences at which the police wink. It is noted also that the commission found it necessary to hold private inquiries for teachers, all of whom feared reprisals from school authorities if their identities became known. The recommendations include naming a Negro to the Board of Education, immediate launching of a building program to end crowding, and increases in the teaching staff.

The city will be guilty of infinitely greater crimes if it fails to act immediately on these reports. The inquiry group has placed the facts in the lap of the Mayor. He cannot afford to ignore them.

Riots - 1935

New York.

THE DISTURBANCE IN HARLEM

Chronicle

MOB psychology is the same in any group, whether white black or mongolian. Once the baser passions of a mob are unleashed, there is no telling to what extremes they may go.

Last Tuesday, in New York City, on 125th Street, a most unfortunate incident occurred that resulted in race rioting. It was all based on the misinterpretation of an incident by a woman who did not stop long enough to get the details of the thing she is alleged to have witnessed, and did not pause long enough to consider the ultimate effects of such misinformation.

3-23-35

This woman, we are told, witnessed the apprehension of a Negro boy 16 years old in one of the stores, in the act of pilfering candy from the counter. Evidently one of the floor men saw the boy and held him, and while doing so the boy, in fright, bit him on the hand. Though we do not know, we can well imagine that the man struck the boy for this act, which would be a normal reaction on the part of any adult in the same position. However, that is purely a matter of opinion.

But the important point in the case is that the Negro woman who witnessed this affair rushed through the streets of Harlem telling everybody that a Negro boy was being killed in one of the 125th Street stores by a white man. This erroneous story precipitated the gathering of a mob of more than 2,000 persons and a good deal of bloodshed, in which one Negro man was shot to death, several whites badly beaten and nearly a million dollars worth of property destroyed.

While the above case may be true ,the underlying motive for the Negroes' resentment goes much deeper than that. Various reasons have been adduced for the sudden flare-up of these "docile" people, but those succintly expressed by Dr. Clayton Powell of the Abyssinian Baptist Church are much nearer the truth and will no doubt be found correct by the commission of six Negroes and five whites which has been appointed by Mayor LaGuardia.

Rev. Powell points out that Communistic activities, and the Italian-Abyssinian affair are minor contributing causes. The real cause is economic—the refusal of white business in Harlem to employ Negroes. In another column we print Mr. Powell's views, which should be given careful study, especially by plutocratic chain stores, insurance companies, public utilities and purveyors of such necessities as bread, milk, etc. A people may be very docile, but continued abuses may render them desperate enough to turn upon those who are their enemies.

We do not condone the action of the Harlem mob in taking the law in their hands any more than we condone like action on the part of Southern mobs. However the law cannot be evoked to force large corporations to be equitable in their dealing with Negroes. Many of our best white citizens control these corporations, and it may be that it is only on occasions like the Harlem flare-up that the injustice meted to the Negro is brought to light.

HARLEM ILLS LAID TO RENT 'GOUGING'

Negroes Turn to Policy Game and Vice to Meet Charges, Tenant Groups Assert.

GENERAL STRIKE IN VIEW

Times

Residents Would Encamp in Streets to Force Fair Rates —'Blacklisting' Revealed.

3-21-35

The policy racket, vice and general unrest in Harlem was attributed, at least in part, by Negro residents yesterday to living conditions forced by landlords who raise rents and "squeeze the last penny" from their tenants.

This indictment of the landlords was voiced by leaders of two tenant associations as they waited in the corridors of the Central Jury Part of the Municipal Court, 30 West Thirty-fifth Street, to hear an eviction proceeding involving one of their officers.

The case for which they were waiting, with about fifty other tenants, was later dismissed by Justice Benjamin Shalleck on a technical point. Only twenty-nine days' notice had been given of the action, and the law requires a thirty-day notice, Justice Shalleck explained. The action, regarded as a test case by the tenants, may be brought later after proper notice.

Leaders of the Graham Court Tenants Association, 1,925 Seventh Avenue, which is under the sponsorship of the Consolidated Tenants League, 291 Edgecombe Avenue, as well as spokesmen for the league charged that landlords in Harlem had organized to "blacklist" all tenants who refused to pay increased rentals or who gave shelter to an evicted tenant.

General Strike Threatened.

With the "blacklist" allegedly growing, the league has taken steps to fight the landlords, and, according to one spokesman who declined to permit the use of his name, a general strike is threatened. It is planned to encamp 10,000 tenants on the streets in an effort to force legislation that would fix rental values.

Charging the landlords with discrimination against his race, this spokesman asserted that Negroes were required to pay $60 and $70 rent for an apartment that would be let to white tenants for $36. He declared that the landlords had formed an association, although the tenants' group could not prove the existence of the organization, to raise rents.

In turn, the tenants organized their groups last September to deal with the landlords. An adjustment was made between the two organizations, according to the Negro tenant, whereby the landlords consented to continue the same rents for a year. Now, he said, the landlords are attempting to evict the leaders of the tenant groups to disrupt their organization.

Says Leases Are Few.

"Very few of the landlords rent on leases," he said. "I don't think there are a dozen houses in Harlem that have leases. The landlords don't want leases because then they could not raise the rents. Those who have refused to pay the increases have been put out and placed on the blacklist. No landlord will rent to any one on the blacklist and if a tenant gives shelter to one that is dispossessed, he, too, is put on the list and is evicted.

"These people will take their last quarter and play the policy game, hoping to win enough to pay the rent. They are desperate. It is not that they don't want to pay. They just can't pay. The white people can always move if the rents are raised, but the Negro is just like being in a box. He can't go and live somewhere else in the city and so he is forced to pay.

"Maybe he makes $20 a week. Maybe his wife works and together they make $100 a month. The rent is $70. And so they have rent parties. They sell whisky for refreshments and they dance and play the numbers game. One vice leads to another. They invite young girls in for the party. Prostitution? It is common knowledge at rent parties."

Nurse Tells of Own Case.

Lizzie J. Jones, a nurse, of 462 West 151st Street, said her renting agent had refused yesterday to accept $22 in rent money from her, which had been due on March 15 according to their agreement, and demanded that she pay the entire month's rent of $45, plus $3 for the cost of serving eviction papers. She had been active in the tenants' association.

Mrs. Minnie Green of 772 St. Nicholas Avenue, first vice president of the Consolidated Tenants League, deplored crowded conditions, which, she said, encouraged gambling and other evils, "conditions which the tenants league is trying to stop."

Vernal J. Williams and Sidney Hauptman, representing the league, declared that the members had no leanings toward the Communist party, but were "decent, law-abiding citizens."

Comment on Harlem

JAMES H. HUBERT of the Urban League in commenting on the Harlem events takes a position which the Herald Tribune correctly described as "coinciding with that of the police." Daily Worker

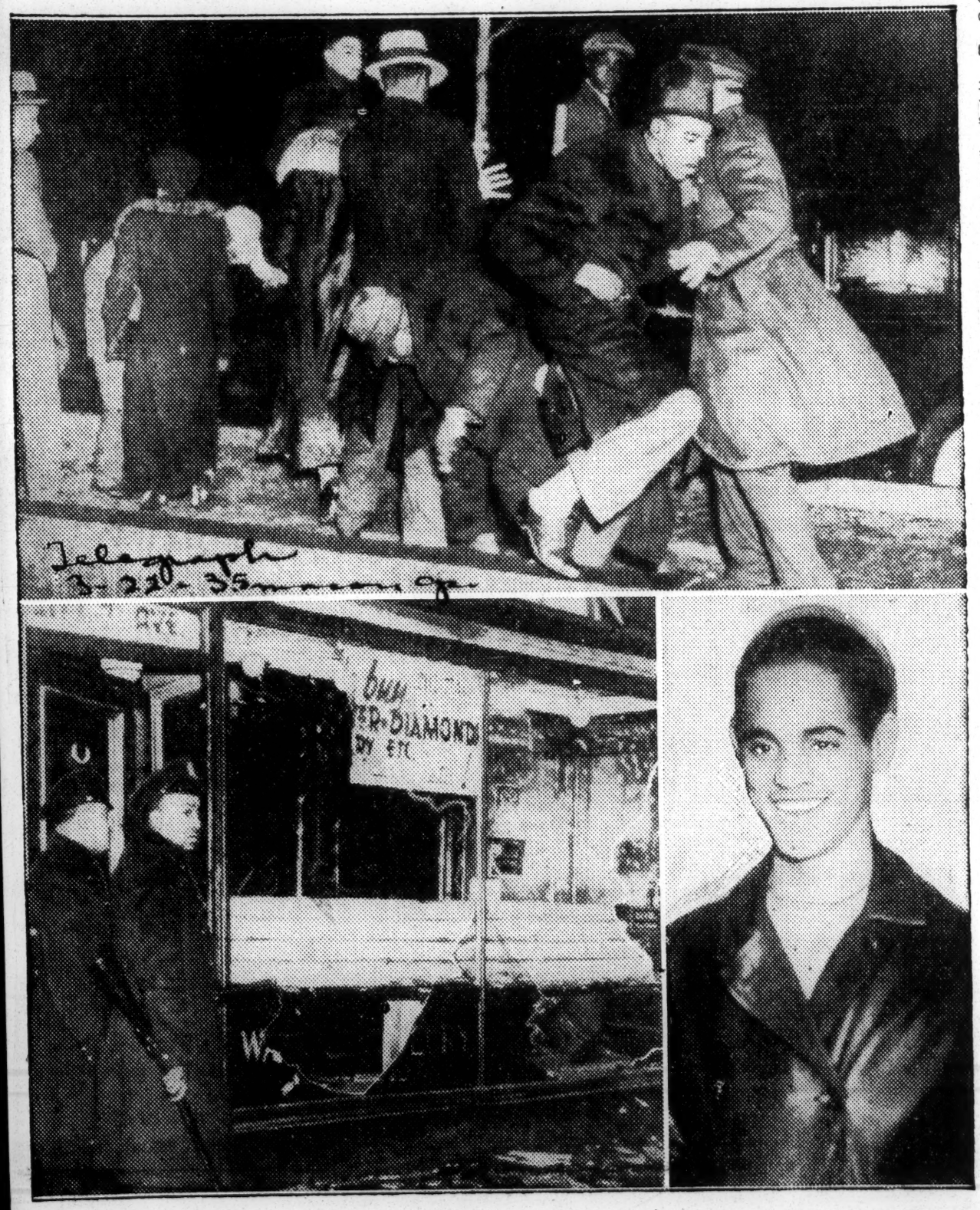
That is to say, he falls in with the plot and provocatively calls for the prohibiting of Communist "activity" in Harlem. Interestingly enough, he praises the LaGuardia relief program, describing it as "adequate and without discrimination." 3-22-35

Walter White of the N.A.A.C.P. took a different stand. White admitted the horrible conditions of the Negro population But then he left the door open for the LaGuardia plot by not denying that "agitators" had part in the "trouble."

And Hubert T. Delany, Negro Tax Commissioner, made it his special business to call yesterday on the Emergency Citizens Committee to urge them in their investigation not to mention the relief issue as it affected the Harlem situation! A direct stab in the back of the starving Negro masses of Harlem!

Only a definite and sharp stand against the LaGuardia plot against the Communists is in the interests of the Negro masses. To feed this plot in whatever form is to encourage the LaGuardia plot and to aid his jimcrow policies against Harlem.

Dozen Indicted for Rioting in Harlem; Communists Given Blame for Outbreak



Because it was reported that a 16-year-old negro boy caught pilfering in a store had been killed, negro rioters raged through the Harlem section of New York, smashing store windows and looting the stores. At least 100 persons were injured and property damage was heavy. Seven hundred Manhattan policemen were sent into the area in an effort to quiet the mobs. One hundred persons were arrested. At top police are shown attempting to stem the onrush of the negroes as they assaulted pedestrians. At left below policemen guard a window broken by a mob, and at right is Lino Rivera who was called the cause of the riot. Rivera bit two floorwalkers who caught him stealing a knife. He had been slapped by a store employe and then was released. A customer who saw him slapped reported he had been killed. (Associated Press Photos.)

NEW YORK, March 21 (AP)—Twelve persons were indicted today on charges growing out of the Harlem riot as the grand jury plunged into an investigation of District Attorney William C. Dodge's charge that Communists were responsible for the outbreak.

Threatening them with deportation, the prosecutor said:

"The Reds have been boring into our institutions for a long time, but when they incite to riot it is time to stop them."

The indictments snapped back against a dozen of the 129 prisoners rounded up during the wild disorders which began Tuesday night and continued through part of yesterday, charged them with assault, burglary, rioting and unlawful assembly.

A denial that Communists inflamed the mobs that were set in motion by false reports that a Negro youth had been beaten to death was voiced by Harry Gannes, acting editor of The Daily Worker, Communist organ.

Declaring Communists had been specifically warned against rioting and looting, Gannes said the outbreak could be traced to economic causes.

District Attorney Dodge declared, however, that he had been studying Communist activity in Harlem for some time past and had gathered evidence indicating they were entirely responsible for the trouble.

With tension still high in the vast Negro quarter, more than 400 policemen patrolled the area where stores were wrecked and approximately 100 persons injured in the furious fighting.

Governor Lehman at Albany turned down a request by the Harlem Merchants' Association for national guard reinforcements, saying he had been assured that local authorities had the situation in hand.

INQUIRY IN HARLEM URGED AT ALBANY

Assemblyman Stephens Drafts Resolution as Governor Refuses to Send Guards.

RACE BIAS IS CHARGED

Member From Affected Area Would Have All Employers Questioned on Policies.

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ALBANY, March 21.—The disorders in Harlem were brought to the fore in Albany in two forms today. Governor Lehman refused a request for use of the National Guard on the ground that the city had the situation under control.

Shortly after this James E. Stephens, Negro Assemblyman from Harlem, made public the text of a resolution he said would he would introduce tomorrow for a legislative investigation of conditions there, which he said would reveal discrimination because of race.

The Governor talked with Mayor La Guardia during the day and received assurance that the police were in control. Then he dispatched this telegram to Dr. Harvey Raymond, executive secretary of the Harlem Merchants Association, who had made the request for the National Guard:

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your telegram requesting that I order out the National Guard because of the recent disorders in Harlem. I beg to advise you that I have communicated with the office of the Mayor of the City of New York. I have been assured that the city officials have the matter entirely in hand."

Mr. Stephens said he would press seriously for adoption of his investigation resolution, although doubt seemed to exist that he would make much progress. Here is the text:

Whereas, negroes from a large percentage of the population of the State of New York, especially in the City of New York and in other large cities of the State of New York, and

Whereas, they contribute a large percentage of the taxes to the Federal, State and Municipal Governments

Whereas, they spend large sums of money in purchasing commodities, and

Wheras, their opportunities for employment in business and industry are limited by reasons of race and color, and

Whereas, it is in the interest of the preservation of law and order to open avenues of employment to men and women regardless of race and color and to improve the economic conditions of persons of all groups, be it,

Resolved that the legislature of the State of New York by a joint resolution of the Senate and Assembly appoint a committee of seven members, composed of four members of the Assembly and three of the Senate of the State of New York to investigate and inquire into all manner of discrimination practiced by individuals and corporations in the employment of persons in business and industry because of race, color or creed, be it further,

Resolved that the committee may compel by subpoena any persons or corporations to appear before it and be examined concerning any matter or thing in these premises, and be it further

Resolved that the committee report its findings together with any of its suggestions or conclusions to the Legislature when next in session, be it further

Resolved the sum of $25,000 be appropriated to defray expenses of said committee.

Resolved that the committee may employ an attorney, stenographer, clerk or other employes to assist in its investigation.

Riots-1935

New York

Behind the Scenes of that Harlem Riot

By CHANNING TOBIAS

NEW YORK.—Wholly aside from my official connection with several organizations of Harlem, I am writing as one who resides in the center of the recent area, who personally witnessed the crashing of the first window in the two hundred block of West 125th street, and who saw many of the incidents that followed on that fateful night of March 19.

First of all, I want to pay tribute to the police who during the first outbreaks used persuasive rather than bullying methods to quell the uprising. Later the situation grew so serious that stronger methods were resorted to. On the whole it must be said that Commissioner Valentine and his men handled the situation in a way to leave no hostility against the force in the hearts of reasonable Harlem citizens.

In the next place, I think that Mayor LaGuardia showed commendably good judgment in the promptness with which he issued a poster statement expressing confidence in Harlem citizens as a whole and appointing a representative committee of white and Negro citizens to study the underlying causes as well as the riot itself. While the committee might have been more representative in spots, still it is a committee of reputable citizens that can be depended upon to run down the facts and make a dispassionate presentation of them to the mayor. The main purpose of this statement is to call the attention of this committee some of the underlying causes as I have observed them.

I. UNEMPLOYMENT—

It is erroneous and superficial to rush to the easy conclusion of District Attorney Dodge and the Hearst newspapers that the whole thing was a Communist plot. It is true that Communists were in the picture. But what gave them their opportunity? The fact that there were and still are thousands of Negroes standing in enforced idleness on the street corners of Harlem with no prospect of employment while the more -favored of their Negro neighbors are compelled to spend their money with business houses largely directed by absolute white owners who employ white workers imported from every part of the city. It is true that after a hard struggle a few Negroes have been given clerkships in the stores on 125th street, but the attitude of most managers has been that of tolerance under pressure rather than sympathetic cooperation.

The whole idea seems to be that it is the God-given right of white business men to reap the profits and the humble responsibility of Negro patrons uncomplainingly to spend the money with which to enrich the owners and provide work for white employees.

The Negro is the last person in America who can afford to condone mob violence; he suffers too much from it. But in all fairness may I not ask reasonable-minded white men if something far worse would not have happened long ago if white men had been confronted with a similar situation?. After all, in spite of the frenzied appeal of the Harlem Merchants association to Governor Lehman for troops, the only loss that has come to Harlem merchants has been some well-insured plate glass windows and some of the shoddy goods that they are accustomed to palm off on unsuspecting Negro customers, while three Negroes have been killed and others may die. Let the committee spend as little time as possible on the discussion of broken window glasses and get down to a discussion of this basic underlying problem of unemployment.

II. RELIEF—

On this question I find myself taking issue with some of my closest personal friends connected with social and civic organizations who seem quite convinced that there should be no discussion of work and home relief in connection with the riot. I believe that smoldering resentment of some phases of relief administration whether justified or unjustified has helped to create a state of mind in Harlem out of which riots are born.

In some instances the psychology of the investigators, white and Negro, is at fault. It is a well-known fact that too many invectigators and administrators look upon people on relief rolls merely as "cases" instead of human beings. Even a hungry man resents being dealt with so impersonally. Then again there is too much of a disposition on the part of some administrators to make it appear that the relief given is an expression of charity on their own part rather than aid made possible by the taxpayer.

In all fairness to the chief officials, it must be said that they seem to desire to remedy these conditions. A committee of the Citizens League for Fair Play, of which I was chairman, called upon Mr. Corsi of the Home Relief Bureau to acquaint him with the rising volume of complaints on relief administration in the Harlem area. We suggested that it would make for better understanding and more effective service if he would appoint a Negro associate on his staff. He assured us that he thought well of the idea and would give it consideration. In the light of what has happened since our visit, I would renew this appeal to Mr. Corsi and direct a similar appeal to the Work Relief Administrator. Just as the appearance and service of Lieutenant Battle had a salutary effect upon the riot situation from a police point of view, so would the presence of Negroes in positions of high official responsibility in the Relief Administrations reassure the Negro masses.

Finally, let me say that I have the utmost confidence in the ability of the people of all races in New York City to work out their problems of relationships satisfactorily when these basic economic and social questions are dealt with intelligently and dispassionately.

Youth, 16, Fourth to Die as Result of Harlem Riot

Brother Says Lloyd Hobbs, Shot by Cop, Ran Because of Fear.

RIVERA TESTIFIES HE WASN'T BEATEN

Villard Suggests Permanent Advisory Body.

NEW YORK.—Soon after his brother, Russell, 15, had testified before the mayor's committee investigating the riot of two weeks ago, Lloyd Hobbs, 16, died in Harlem Hospital as the result of being shot by a white policeman during the riot.

The fatality is the fourth growing out of the disorders of March 19, when a mob of Harlemites battled police, following the report that Lino Rivera, a 16-year-old youth, had been beaten to death in Kress's 5 and 10 store on 125th Street, after he had been caught filching a ten-cent knife.

Russell testified that he and Lloyd were watching the rioting at 127th Street and Seventh Avenue and fled at the approach of Patrolman John McInerney. The patrolman, he said, shot Lloyd in the abdomen.

Russell's testimony contradicted that of McInerney, who said that he shot into a group allegedly looting one of the stores.

Rivera Denies Beating

Rivera, himself a witness at the investigation, denied, despite efforts of Joseph Tauber, white, counsel for the I.L.D., to secure different testimony, that he was manhandled at the store.

He also denied an inference that he was told, at the 123rd Street police station, to say he was not beaten.

Joseph Taylor, president of the Young Liberators, disclaimed knowledge of the inflammatory circulars which were instrumental in starting the riot, saying that "somebody upstairs" in his office composed and distributed them while he was out trying to verify reports that a boy had been beaten to death in the Kress store.

Secrecy Caused Riot

Witnesses indicated that had there been no mystery about what happened to Rivera, there would have been no rioting. Inspector John D. De Martino, white, in charge of the uniformed police in Harlem, declared that if he had been the patrolman he would have released the boy where all could have seen what he was doing.

He added that in the future if there are rumors circulating that might lead to rioting, he will use broadcasting stations and every other agency to spread the truth and dispel the rumors.

Oswald Garrison Villard, white, a vice-president of the NAACP, suggested that a permanent advisory committee be set up to confer with police to promote better relations in Harlem, adding that the body should include representatives of the Communist party and the Young Liberators.

Cops Not Popular

Members of the investigating committee remarked upon the fact that there was much ill feeling between the citizens of Harlem and the police. Raids by the police upon Communist headquarters in Harlem were cited as reprisals.

The next public hearing of the committee will be held on Saturday, and will take up playgrounds, while on the following Saturday, discussions will center around employment and discrimination.

The work of the committee, it was announced, will last more than two months, Dr. Charles H. Roberts, chairman, said Sunday. The body of twelve has been divided into eight sub-committees. These groups and their chairmen are:

Crime, Arthur Garfield Hays; discrimination in employment, Hubert Delany, city tax commissioner; education, Oswald Garrison Villard, white; law and legislation, Mr. Delany; health and sanitation, Dr. Roberts;

Housing and playgrounds, Morris Ernst, white; labor problems, A. Philip Randilph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; and relief agencies, Dr. Roberts.

Harlem Sketchbook

By THEOPHILUS LEWIS

The Bad Boy Problem.

THE MAYOR'S COMMITTEE investigating the Harlem riot, or "outburst," as they prefer to call the recent local unpleasantness, will do well to keep in mind the fact that the spark that caused the explosion was an act of juvenile delinquency. A lad attempted to pilfer a trinket from a counter and employees of the store protected their employer's property with more vigor than tact. Bystanders, ignorant of the provocation, resented the way the boy was being manhandled, and the fat was in the fire.

Apparently the lad's attempted theft was not his maiden venture in delinquency. He had previously been charged with putting slugs in a transit turnstile. It seems that he was getting good in the trade of being bad. He is a unit in Harlem's bad boy problem, the No. 1 problem of the community.

If the committee will search the files of local newspapers they will discover that for several years juvenile delinquency has been a growing menace to law and order in Harlem. Perhaps juvenile delinquency is not a proper term. Probably the condition can be better described as child neglect. Our children, of course, are no more prone to delinquency than the children of any other race or section. But there seems to be a heavy ratio of delinquent parents in Harlem. Swarms of boys, apparently bereft of parental control or restriction, roam the streets day and night, engaged in all sorts of mischief and petty vandalism. Indeed, our

streets seem to be an efficient prep school for a career of crime. For light on this problem, the committee might find it profitable to read Charles E. Grutzner's article in The Amsterdam News of August 4, 1934, and the Sketch Book in the following issue. The news columns of The Amsterdam News will throw more light on the subject. "Fifteen-year-old Burglary Suspect Shot by Policeman," "Sixteen-Year-Old Boy Robs Peddler," "Nineteen-Year-Old Youth Convicted of Murder in Hold-Up"—these are the headlines which warn us that neglected children of today are the criminals of tomorrow. The recent riot, excuse me, I mean outburst, proves that child neglect may not wait until tomorrow to exact its toll of disorder and death.

* * *

Local Responsibility.

SOME OF THE spokesmen of the community who appear before the commtitee will probably mention child neglect as a part of the background of the recent outburst. In most instances, if they run true to form, they will make child neglect a talking point in favor of providing more playgrounds for the recreation and more social workers for the supervision of Harlem youth. We certainly need more playgrounds and social workers. We also need something else which the authorities cannot provide. That is family discipline.

That is something no one except the people of Harlem themselves can provide. So long as we permit our children to run wild the community will become progressively more lawless. We cannot expect the mayor or the school board or the department of health to teach our children the importance of self-control. That's our own job.

It is a job we have been trying to shift to other shoulders. A recent incident may be used for illustration. A few weeks ago a schoolboy got sore because he was reprimanded by his teacher and set the school afire. In spite of the fact that only a few classrooms had been damaged, the local tribunes made the incident a pretext for demanding a new schoolhouse.

If we continue to ignore or condone the bad-boy problem it is clear that increasing numbers of delinquent children will grow into lawless adults, boosting the crime rate of the community, making mass outbreaks a constant hazard.

* * *

Long-Distance Riot Leaders.

IF THE MEMBERS of the committee are smart they will not pay too much attention to the loud assertions that unrest in Harlem is the result of agitation by Communists. They will hit pay dirt quicker by studying the recent boycott crusade. The Reds preach class antagonism. The boycott movement quickly resolved itself into a race issue. Every thoughtful observer of life knows that race friction is ten times as inflammable as class friction.

The chances are the leaders of the boycott crusade intended to keep the movement within the frame of economic polemics. But the men on the front line, the picket leaders and soapbox orators, quickly translated the careful dialectics of the Revs. Imes, Powell and Johnson, into terms of anti-Semitism and white versus black. And the news and editorial columns of the New York Age, especially the column of Vere E. Johns, were hardly calculated to exert a soporific influence on the community. The committee might find it profitable to read Johns' notorious "Head-whipping" column.

There was a time, during the peak of the boycott movement, when a slight indiscretion by a policeman, a white salesgirl or a colored shopper who defied the boycott would have started an outburst quite as serious as the recent disorder. The feeling of race antipathy, perhaps not intended by the leaders of the boycott, has remained pent up in the community waiting for a spark to set it off. The riot stems in a straight line from the boycott. The apostles of that movement were logically the long-distance leaders of the riot.

HARLEM'S KNOTTY PROBLEM

Full Inquiry in Which Various Agencies Would Join Regarded as the Best Hope

By LEONARD OUTHWAITE.

Harlem is quiet again after the sudden riots which broke out on the night of March 19 and the early morning of March 20. As quiet is restored, it becomes clear that very serious economic and social distress has existed in Harlem and has created the tension that made the riots possible.

The committee of inquiry appointed by the Mayor has called attention in its first statement to the press, to the economic factors as fundamental in the situation that lay back of the riot. In this it confirms the opinion of committees and meetings which had already studied conditions in Harlem and the reports published in the newspapers.

From these statements, and from independent inquiry among responsible spokesmen in the Negro community, it appears that Harlem, long before the riots occurred, reached a state of poverty, distress and depression that seemed desperate even to a people to whom hard times were no novelty.

Much Unemployment.

Chief among Harlem's problems is that of unemployment. It is estimated that whereas one man in four is out of employment in the city generally, one man in two is unemployed in Harlem.

Among those employed, there has been a shift from higher to lower jobs—which has also affected the income of the Negro worker. During the period of prosperity and rising labor costs, Negroes sought and found jobs in the skilled trades and specialties. Training was offered not only in the Southern schools, like Hampton and Tuskegee, but also in the urban leagues, Y. M. C. A.'s, &c. With hard times Negroes have lost the better jobs for which they were equipped. Even in the traditional Negro occupations, such as janitor service and elevator operation, there has under stress of present conditions been a large replacement of Negroes by white men.

With unemployment and falling wages, the housing situation, always acute in Harlem, has grown even worse. Several factors seem to be operating. Rents have not fallen in proportion to the fall in Negro income. To meet the situation, families have "doubled up," several occupying one apartment and in extreme cases even one room. Real estate ownership has largely passed to white operators or white banks. These regard anything as good enough for the Negro and have permitted a steady deterioration in their properties. Social workers say that housing and sanitation conditions in Harlem are among the worst in the city.

Question of Relief.

It is also charged by the leaders and the active citizens that Harlem has not received relief in proportion to its needs or in proportion to the rest of the city; that Negroes are in effect barred from membership in the trades unions; that the public works programs do not relieve their unemployment; that no Federal or other housing program has been developed to meet their situation; and, finally, that committees and other peaceful means of making their distress known were largely ignored until the time of the riot.

The situation is plainly serious, even if some of the statements of the Negro committees and press be somewhat discounted. The riot has made apparent the need for a constructive program. With this in mind, committees in Harlem have suggested to the Mayor the strengthening of his committee on its technical, industrial and sociological side.

Should the committee ask the assistance of technical advice or recommend a thorough economic and social inquiry, it would have precedent for such action. The situation out of which the riot grew and the riot itself are not unique. The serious Chicago riot of 1919, which grew out of conditions apparently very similar to those existing in Harlem today, was followed by a bi-racial commission of inquiry and a thorough technical investigation was prepared. Charles S. Johnson, then on the staff of the Urban League and now Professor of Sociology at Fisk University, was largely responsible for the technical organization of the report, which is still regarded as a model of excellence and accuracy for this type of work.

Sources of Information.

There are many other resources for the committee of inquiry to draw on. A number of organizations exist with special skill and knowledge in Negro and interracial affairs. Most directly concerned is the New York Urban League. This organization has a joint white and colored board, trained colored staffs operating under the executive director, James H. Hubert. It serves as a centralizing agency for educational, social, health and welfare activities in Harlem.

Urban leagues exist in many other cities, and these are united through the National Urban League, which has its headquarters in New York and maintains its own staff of workers. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is also located in New York and is available for consultation on many special problems.

Commentators have pointed out that the special task of the Mayor's committee should be not only to tell what has happened and why but chiefly to show in a practical and detailed plan how city, State and Federal programs may bring relief and employment to Harlem.

Riots - 1935

New York

What Our Readers Say of the Riot

Self Determination

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—The air beaters have overlooked two points in studying the Harlem riot.

(1) Negroes suffer from inferiority complex due to the centuries of slavery and unspeakable cruelty inflicted upon them by the white race, thereby throttling their sense of ethics and ambition.

(2) The Christian dogma was forced upon them in their despair, and they gladly accepted, as it offered them the only consolation in this world of white supremacy, and they naturally became religious fanatics. Down to the present day they are depending on Jesus to solve their problems.

Therefore, Negroes must go back to their homeland Africa and redelop their language, religion, etc. I am a firm believer in self-determination for all mankind.

WILLIAM HARRIS.

Under the Surface

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—Wholly aside from my official connection with several organizations of Harlem, I am writing as one who resides in the center of the recent riot area, who personally witnessed the crashing of the first window in the two hundred block of West 125th street, and who saw many of the incidents that followed on that fateful night of March 19.

First of all, I want to pay tribute to the police who during the first outbreaks used persuasive rather than bullying methods to quell the uprising. Later the situation grew so serious that stronger methods were resorted to. On the whole, it must be said that Commissioner Valentine and his men handled the situation in a way to leave no hostility against the force in the hearts of reasonable Harlem citizens.

In the next place, I think that Mayor LaGuardia showed commendably good judgment in the promptness with which he issued a poster statement expressing confidence in Harlem citizens as a whole and appointing a representative committee of white and Negro citizens to study the underlying causes as well as the riot itself. While the committee might have been more representative in spots, still it is a committee of reputable citizens that can be depended upon to run down the facts and make a dispassionate presentation of them to the mayor.

It is true that Communists were in the picture. But what gave them their opportunity? The fact that there were and still are thousands of Negroes standing in enforced idleness on the street corners of Harlem with no prospect of employment while the more favored of their Negro neighbors are compelled to spend their money with business houses largely directed by absentee white owners who employ white workers imported from every part of the city. It is true that after a hard struggle a few Negroes have been given clerkships in the stores on 125th street, but the attitude of most managers has been that of tolerance under pressure rather than sympathetic co-operation. The whole idea seems to be that it is the God-given right of white business men to reap the profits and the humble responsibility of Negro patrons uncomplainingly to spend the money with which to enrich the owners and provide work for white employees.

I believe that smoldering resentment of some phases of relief administration whether justified or unjustified has helped to create a state of mind in Harlem out of which riots are born. In some instances the physchology of the investigators, white and Negro, is at fault. It is a well-known fact that too many investigators and administrators look upon people on relief rolls merely as "cases" instead of human beings. Even a hungry man resents being dealt with so impersonally. Then again, there is too much of a disposition on the part of some administrators to make it appear that the relief given is an expression of charity on their own part rather than aid made possible by the taxpayers. In all fairness to the chief officials it must be said that they seem to desire to remedy these conditions.

A committee of the Citizens' League for Fair Play, of which I was chairman, called upon Mr. Corsi of the Home Relief Bureau to acquaint him with the rising volume of complaints on relief administration in the Harlem area. We suggested that it would make for better understanding and more effective service if he would appoint a Negro associate on his staff. He assured us that he thought well of the idea and would give it consideration. In the light of what has happened since our visit, I would renew this appeal to Mr. Corsi and direct a similar appeal to the work relief administrator.

CHANNING H. TOBIAS.

Blames Dissension

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—I think the riot was caused chiefly by dissension among our own people. It is true that police brutality, prejudice and unemployment played their part, but the first two are minor issues. I think the real cause was class hatred. I don't think there would be so much unemployment among our race were it not for this class hatred. The germ seems to infest those who are educated enough to make fools of themselves and the race.

C. J. D.

Harlem's Explosion

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—I derived pleasure from reading the last issue of your great weekly. An overwhelming majority attributed the recent outrage in Harlem to economic and racial injustices, while a very small minority blamed radical elements for its instigation.

The great newspapers of the land also blamed radicals for inciting Harlem's outraged population to mass action. Regardless as to which side is correct, one interesting fact stands out boldly. The Negro has begun to think. Perhaps the New Negro has at last realized that it is not safe or wise to read any newspaper and yell out "right!" before giving his own brain matter some exercise on the question. The cringing, apologetic type is giving way to modern youth, the type that has brought glory to all dominant peoples. At first they may be branded as hoodlums, but so were the soldiers of Washington. At least England thought so.

ARNOLD JOHNSON.

The Harlem Riot

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—We deeply deplore the unhappy conditions that have led to the rioting and disturbances on the evening of Tuesday, March 19, and the following day, with possibility of still further difficulty of our Negro population with both the authorities of the law, and with the mercantile interests on 125th street. We strongly condemn all rioting and wanton destruction of life and property and abridgement of safety. However, this trouble has its rootage in a very unfair attitude of the 125th street commercial interests toward the Negro, as well as in the general unrest of a time of continued employment and maladjustment. Evidence in our possession, and also in that of the League of Fair Play, in which the pastor of this church (St. James') has had an active interest since the famous campaign of 1934 (which agitated for employment of Negroes in stores on 125th street, in not only one type of work but all types for which they were fitted) shows that such employment was only grudgingly given, if at all, and that there is deep resentment among some of the merchants and the employed whites at what they doubtless feel is the presumption of the Negro to demand a fair share of employment where he spends in such large degrees.

This statement makes no prejudgment of the details of the riot, but asks the following as the only possible demands which a self-respecting Negro group can be expected to put forth:

That the merchants of 125th street and vicinity, disavow and condemn the resentment and suspicion with which many of them have viewed the Negro's rightful demand for consideration in the business life of his community where he lives and spends his all-too-meager earnings.

That a thorough investigation, into the facts of the inception of this riot of March 19 be held at once by impartial and unbiased parties.

REV. WILLIAM LLOYD IMES,
For St. James' Presbyterian Church Congregation.

Incomes of Harlemites

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—One of the daily papers, in commenting on the Harlem riot, said that there are not more than five people in Harlem with an income of $5,000 a year. To my mind that sounds like another fantastic statement by the white press. Will you give an expression on the matter?

C. DEMOND LEWIS.

Harlem.

(Ed. Note: We are not able to give any complete figures, but we know of five city and state employees who have incomes of $5,000 and over from one job each. What with some of our ministers and a few of the business men and racketeers, the statement would appear to be an error.)

"The Best Thing"

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—The riot in Harlem was one of the best things that could have happened. The Negroes have been silent long enough about their social and economic ills given them by the white people.

HARLEMITE.

Food at Formals

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—I wish to commend the woman's page writer, "T. E. B.," for the article condemning the practice among our group of serving large quantities of food at formal dances. I venture to say that the club or individual who inaugurated the idea has lived to see the privilege very much abused. Not long ago I had the privilege of attending a dance given by the United Spanish War Veterans in the palatial ballroom of the St. George Hotel in Brooklyn. I was much embarrassed to see our group (a small minority) was the only one serving quantities of foods. Personally I have talked long and loud against this practice, but the old adage "If you are in Rome..." has prevailed.

T. C. DUVALL.

Semi-Starvation Justified Harlem Riot, Says Gordon

Says "Civilized Parasites," Living on Outer Fringes of Misery, Contribute to Despair; Defends Reds, Created by Conditions, as Offering Only Cure.

By EUGENE GORDON

BOSTON—On March 1, a New York daily newspaper carried a dispatch from its Moscow correspondent, quoting from and commenting on an article from the Soviet newspaper, Pravda.

The Pravda article, written by Moissaye J. Olgin, editor of the Morning Freheit and Pravada's American correspondent, dealt with the recent progress of the Communist party of the United States.

It told of the Communists' increasing success among wrokers in reformist unions, pointing out that, "faced with oppression from the bosses and the police," the workers "are prepared to throw themselves into battle for bread and the right to live."

Communist Well-Informed

It said that "the working masses are becoming convinced from experience that the Communist is a serious, loyal, well-informed comrade." The Pravda article discussed the number and variety of pamphlets and books published by the Communist party, and generally showed that with the increasing militancy of spirit among the workers, the Communist party has gained the workers' confidence.

Any discussion of the American worker must include the black man, so Olgin's discussion in Pravda dealt specifically with the wretched conditions in Harlem in effect as follows:

Preachers Flourish

Harlem's quarter-million inhabitants live in a condition of semi-starvation, poverty and sickness; a backward, unenlightened mass among which preachers flourish.

The church is the only place where, so to speak, they partake of culture. The church takes the place of a club house, a rest house, a reading room, or even a theatre.

Riots - 1935

New York

What Our Readers Say of the Riot

Self Determination

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—The air beaters have overlooked two points in studying the Harlem riot.

(1) Negroes suffer from inferiority complex due to centuries of slavery and unspeakable cruelty inflicted upon them by the white race, thereby throttling their sense of ethics and ambition.

(2) The Christian dogma was forced upon them in their despair, and they gladly accepted, as it offered them the only consolation in this world of white supremacy, and they naturally became religious fanatics. Down to the present day they are depending on Jesus to solve their problems.

Therefore, Negroes must go back to their homeland Africa and redelop their language, religion, etc. I am a firm believer in self-determination for all mankind.

WILLIAM HARRIS.

Under the Surface

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—Wholly aside from my official connection with several organizations of Harlem, I am writing as one who resides in the center of the recent riot area, who personally witnessed the crashing of the first window in the two hundred block of West 125th street, and who saw many of the incidents that followed on that fateful night of March 19.

First of all, I want to pay tribute to the police who during the first outbreaks used persuasive rather than bullying methods to quell the uprising. Later the situation grew so serious that stronger methods were resorted to. On the whole, it must be said that Commissioner Valentine and his men handled the situation in a way to leave no hostility against the force in the hearts of reasonable Harlem citizens.

In the next place, I think that Mayor LaGuardia showed commendably good judgment in the promptness with which he issued a poster statement expressing confidence in Harlem citizens as a whole and appointing a representative committee of white and Negro citizens to study the underlying causes as well as the riot itself. While the committee might have been more representative in spots, still it is a committee of reputable citizens that can be depended upon to run down the facts and make a dispassionate presentation of them to the mayor.

It is true that Communists were in the picture. But what gave them their opportunity? The fact that there were and still are thousands of Negroes standing in enforced idleness on the street corners of Harlem with no prospect of employment while the more favored of their Negro neighbors are compelled to spend their money with business houses largely directed by absentee white owners who employ white workers imported from every part of the city. It is true that after a hard struggle a few Negroes have been given clerkships in the stores on 125th street, but the attitude of most managers has been that of tolerance under pressure rather than sympathetic co-operation. The whole idea seems to be that it is the God-given right of white business men to reap the profits and the humble responsibility of Negro patrons uncomplainingly to spend the money with which to enrich the owners and provide work for white employees.

I believe that smoldering resentment of some phases of relief administration whether justified or unjustified has helped to create a state of mind in Harlem out of which riots are born. In some instances the physchology of the investigators, white and Negro, is at fault. It is a well-known fact that too many investigators and administrators look upon people on relief rolls merely as "cases" instead of human beings. Even a hungry man resents being dealt with so impersonally. Then again, there is too much of a disposition on the part of some administrators to make it appear that the relief given is an expression of charity on their own part rather than aid made possible by the taxpayers. In all fairness to the chief officials it must be said that they seem to desire to remedy these conditions.

A committee of the Citizens' League for Fair Play, of which I was chairman, called upon Mr. Corsi of the Home Relief Bureau to acquaint him with the rising volume of complaints on relief administration in the Harlem area. We suggested that it would make for better understanding and more effective service if he would appoint a Negro associate on his staff. He assured us that he thought well of the idea and would give it consideration. In the light of what has happened since our visit, I would renew this appeal to Mr. Corsi and direct a similar appeal to the work of relief administrator.

CHANNING H. TOBIAS.

Blames Dissension

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—I think the riot was caused chiefly by dissension among our own people. It is true that police brutality, prejudice and unemployment played their part, but the first two are minor issues. I think the real cause was class hatred. I don't think there would be so much unemployment among our race were it not for this class hatred. The germ seems to infest those who are educated enough to make fools of themselves and the race.

C. J. D.

Harlem's Explosion

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—I derived pleasure from reading the last issue of your great weekly. An overwhelming majority attributed the recent outrage in Harlem to economic and racial injustices, while a very small minority blamed radical elements for its instigation.

The great newspapers of the land also blamed radicals for inciting Harlem's outraged population to mass action. Regardless as to which side is correct, one interesting fact stands out boldly. The Negro has begun to think. Perhaps the New Negro has at last realized that it is not safe or wise to read any newspaper and yell out "right!" before giving his own brain matter some exercise on the question. The cringing, apologetic type is giving way to modern youth, the type that has brought glory to all dominant peoples. At first they may be branded as hoodlums, but so were the soldiers of Washington. At least England thought so.

ARNOLD JOHNSON.

The Harlem Riot

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—We deeply deplore the unhappy conditions that have led to the rioting and disturbances on the evening of Tuesday, March 19, and the following day, with possibility of still further difficulty of our Negro population with both the authorities of the law, and with the mercantile interests on 125th street. We strongly condemn all rioting and wanton destruction of life and property and abridgement of safety. However, this trouble has its rootage in a very unfair attitude of the 125th street commercial interests toward the Negro, as well as in the general unrest of a time of continued employment and maladjustment. Evidence in our possession, and also in that of the League of Fair Play, in which the pastor of this church (St. James') has had an active interest since the famous campaign of 1934 (which agitated for employment of Negroes in stores on 125th street, in not only one type of work but all types for which they were fitted) shows that such employment was only grudgingly given, if at all, and that there is deep resentment among some of the merchants and the employed whites at what they doubtless feel is the presumption of the Negro to demand a fair share of employment where he spends in such large degrees.

This statement makes no prejudgment of the details of the riot, but asks the following as the only possible demands which a self-respecting Negro group can be expected to put forth:

That the merchants of 125th street and vicinity, disavow and condemn the resentment and suspicion with which many of them have viewed the Negro's rightful demand for consideration in the business life of his community where he lives and spends his all-too-meager earnings.

That a thorough investigation, into the facts of the inception of this riot of March 19 be held at once by impartial and unbiased parties.

REV. WILLIAM LLOYD IMES,
For St. James' Presbyterian Church Congregation.

Incomes of Harlemites

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—One of the daily papers, in commenting on the Harlem riot, said that there are not more than five people in Harlem with an income of $5,000 a year. To my mind that sounds like another fantastic statement by the white press. Will you give an expression on the matter?

C. DEMOND LEWIS.

Harlem.

(Ed. Note: We are not able to give any complete figures, but we know of five city and state employees who have incomes of $5,000 and over from one job each. What with some of our ministers and a few of the business men and racketeers, the statement would appear to be an error.)

"The Best Thing"

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—The riot in Harlem was one of the best things that could have happened. The Negroes have been silent long enough about their social and economic ills given them by the white people.

HARLEMITE.

Food at Formals

To the Editor of The Amsterdam News.

Dear Sir—I wish to commend the woman's page writer, "T. E. B.," for the article condemning the practice among our group of serving large quantities of food at formal dances. I venture to say that the club or individual who inaugurated the idea has lived to see the privilege very much abused. Not long ago I had the privilege of attending a dance given by the United Spanish War Veterans in the palatial ballroom of the St. George Hotel in Brooklyn. I was much embarrassed to see our group (a small minority) was the only one serving quantities of foods. Personally I have talked long and loud against this practice, but the old adage "If you are in Rome..." has prevailed.

T. C. DUVALL.

Semi-Starvation Justified Harlem Riot, Says Gordon

Says "Civilized Parasites," Living on Outer Fringes of Misery, Contribute to Despair; Defends Reds, Created by Conditions, as Offering Only Cure.

By EUGENE GORDON

BOSTON—On March 1, a New York daily newspaper carried a dispatch from its Moscow correspondent, quoting from and commenting on an article from the Soviet newspaper, Pravda.

The Pravda article, written by Moissaye J. Olgin, editor of the Morning Freheit and Pravada's American correspondent, dealt with the recent progress of the Communist party of the United States.

It told of the Communists' increasing success among wrokers in reformist unions, pointing out that, "faced with oppression from the bosses and the police," the workers "are prepared to throw themselves into battle for bread and the right to live."

Communist Well-Informed

It said that "the working masses are becoming convinced from experience that the Communist is a serious, loyal, well-informed comrade."

The Pravda article discussed the number and variety of pamphlets and books published by the Communist party and generally showed that with the increasing militancy of spirit among the workers, the Communist party has gained the workers' confidence.

Any discussion of the American worker must include the black man, so Olgin's discussion in Pravda dealt specifically with the wretched conditions in Harlem in effect as follows:

Preachers Flourish

Harlem's quarter-million inhabitants live in a condition of semi-starvation, poverty and sickness; a backward, unenlightened mass among which preachers flourish.

The church is the only place where, so to speak, they partake of culture. The church takes the place of a club house, a rest house, a reading room, or even a theatre.

For a long while the Communists considered it unbecoming for them to work in the churches. But since James Ford, member of the central committee of the party, became organizer of the Harlem section, the situation has changed.

Link Divine and Ford

The Communists organize in the churches, the masses for struggle for their daily economic demands, and for the defense of their elementary human rights.

As a result, thousands of Harlem's backward now say: "Father Divine is our God. James Ford is our political leader."

Elsewhere in the article Olgin said that the growing unity of colored and white workers added "materially to the struggle of the masses against hunger and their fundamental human rights."

Article Not Exaggerated

Allowing for literary embellishments in the nature of metaphor or simile, the foregoing extract from the Pravda article is literally true of Harlem, as all honest persons who know about Harlem will admit. Subsequent events in that zone have proved that Olgin did not exaggerate.

Nevertheless there were strange but characteristic reactions to the Pravda article in American newspapers.

White Press Reacts

The bourgeois white press treated it as a "report" to Moscow on the "Red gains" in the United States, and hinted that something should be done to suppress "these irresponsible agitators" among us.

The bourgeois white press also grew violent because the Reds were stirring Harlem's "happy-go-lucky" and "contented" population to a state of unrest.

Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., began the attack for the respectable element of his race. Never questioning whether the Hearst or other papers had lied, Mr. White wrote the following letter to Mr. Olin:

White Attacks Olgin . . . . . .

"You are directly quoted . . . as having said in a dispatch to Pravda that Harlem is 'inhabited by a backward, ignorant mass of 250,000 people who live in hunger, poverty and disease.'

"Such an irresponsible, sweeping statement as this could not be surpassed in its viciousness and inaccuracy by Huey Long. Indeed, we do not believe that even Huey Long would be guilty of a statement like this which does infinite harm to us in our efforts against injustice and misrepresentation.

Misrepresentation Charged

"We do not know what members of our race you have met nor what opportunities you have had to see that there are many persons in Harlem who would certainly not fit into your classification.

"In any event, they would not be guilty either of such bad taste as the dispatch quotes you as being responsible for, or of the wholesale slander of a race which has been made to suffer as severely as this race has from misrepresentation."

"Editorial Writers Upset"

A weekly in New York and one in Pittsburgh followed with editorials.

Knowing who the persons are who write these editorials, I feel that I am not mistaken when I surmise that they are upset because they, the George S. Schuylers and the Obie McCollums, along with Walter White and the other elite, had been lumped in with the masses of oppressed, homeless, hungry and half-naked people whom economic conditions have imprisoned in Harlem

Called Civilized Parasites

These dicties say, in effect: "What do you mean, backward? Why, look at me! I live in a swell apartment. I drive a swell car. I read the Nation and the New Republic. I visit white friends in Greenwich Village. I wear mauve-colored spats and a silk hat. What do you mean, backward?"

It is precisely such "civilized" parasites who are most backward, and who, in their backwardness, help to keep the great masses of their beloved (?) people chained to poverty and despair.

Basic Cause Obvious

Moissaye J. Olgin's analysis of the Harlem situation was correct, and events of the night of March 19 prove it.

Hearst's American and Journal, and every other capitalist newssheet in New York, did all they could to incite the whites, including the state and city governments, to attack the blacks; yet even these papers were forced to tell a part of the truth—that the basic causes of the outbreak were the appalling misery growing out of over-crowding in unfit hovels, unemployment and general discrimination.

The World-Telegram, as rabid as any Hearst paper in news dispatches of the riot, reported seventy-five per cent of all Harlem without work, asserting that "as many as three families, consisting of from ten to fifteen persons, crowd into a five-room apartment."

Describing one such apartment, the World-Telegram's investigator said it "presented a scene of filth and squalor."

Rent Takes Half of Wages

The New York branch of the Urban League, headed by James H. Hubert, certainly knows as much about conditions in Harlem as any organization, now collecting and hiding figures.

The Urban League reported, after a survey a few years ago, that at least half the miserable wage earned by the average head of a Harlem family goes for rent.

Under the best of conditions, no more than a quarter of a month's income should go for rent, the budget-makers tell us, for more than this amount means going without other necessities.

Job Discrimination Acute

But there are, in Harlem, also, two out of every three workers unemployed. Discrimination against workers by rich white concerns like the subway, the telephone and various life insurance companies, and by white enterprises doing business in Harlem, is practiced as a consistent policy.

Relief for the jobless and sick of Harlem is consistently less than it is for whites.

According to Cyril Briggs in the Daily Worker: "The liberal La Guardia administration follows the example of the lynch rulers of the South and gives these starving workers twenty-five per cent less in relief than workers in other sections of the city."

Relief Inequalities

Briggs says that, "In Harlem, the average relief per family is only $28, compared to average monthly city relief of $41 per family."

Victor Suarez, Harlem relief supervisor, says that during February he spent only $214,000 to feed, clothe, and house 7,500 families (including many Latin-Americans); that only $12,000, or $1.60 a family, was spent for clothing.

Rent Evils Cited

Harlem tenants have organized to fight against greedy landlords and evictions. Discussing the riot, a member of one of these organizations told the New York Times (speaking of the masses of workers):

"They are desperate. It is not that they don't want to pay. They just can't.

"The white people can always move, if the rents are raised, but these people are just like being in a box.

"They can't go and live somewhere else in the city, and so, are forced to pay. And so they have rent parties. They sell whiskey or refreshments and they dance and play the numbers. One vice leads to another."

Pent-up Hatred Released

Taken all together, these horrible, uncivilized conditions in which most of the people of Harlem are compelled to live lead sometimes to undisciplined and outraged protest.

The riot was the release of years of pent-up hatred against their oppressors and despair at bettering their condition. It was not a race riot in any sense, and in their hearts the editorial writers of both races know it.

Most of the "leaders" admit that it was not a race riot, for it does not help their own plight to cover up the actual conditions; but the whites who raise this cry would like to see the whole section exterminated.

They hope to raise so great a barrier between the masses of the two races as to make it impossible for them to come together in common organization.

Why Hang Head?

T. E. B., writing under the head of "The Feminist Viewpoint," in a weekly paper, expresses the point of view of her "nice" and "respectable" class when she says that even if all the versions of the riot did not differ, "I would still be hanging my head in shame."

Why does this polite and respectable feminist hang her lovely head in shame? Because, she says, "A riot—a disgraceful display of mob violence — was uncalled for!"

Outbreak Called For

T. E. B. is wrong. The outbreak was called for. It was even prepared for. It was the outcome of years of suffering and degradation and misery such as no human being could put up with forever. The crisis which broke in 1929, and the deep-going depression into which the crisis has settled, have aggravated the Harlemite's awful condition.

Anybody who cannot see this fact is either blind to reality or too stupid to interpret what he sees.

However, T. E. B. does not belong in the category of cowards into which certain editors and other Harlem "leaders" fit so neatly. These gentlemen, when asked by the smelly yellow Hearst newshound what they thought of the 'race riot," cried in unison, "Them Communists was the cause of it!"

Foot-kissing Assailed

To what can we ascribe such crawling, foot-kissing, wormy lowness in our "leadership" except desire for the safety to their own worthless and yellow-spotted hides?

Living on the outer fringes of the filth and misery into which most Harlem workers are forced, these respectable gentlemen of the elite are like repulsive beasts of prey. They live upon the wretchedness of "my people," thus helping to preserve it.

Reds Often Only Cure

They will do nothing to cure the fundamental ills of Harlem, and blame the Communists, the only persons who seriously work toward a cure, when the people, unable any longer to stand the pressure, fly into undisciplined, but justifiable, rage.

The workers of Harlem expressed their hatred and resentment just as militant and oppressed workers have always expressed themselves. The ladies and gentlemen on the fringe of Harlem's misery cannot understand all this, and they hang their heads in shame.

Shame Misdirected

They do not hang their heads in shame over the fact that men, women and children must live from ten to fifteen together in space enough for only two or three. They do not hang their heads in shame when fine and promising young girls, because of this overcrowding, are headed toward prostitution.

They do not hang their heads in shame over the fact that the rent party contributes to the degradation of both boys and girls. Oh, No! The rent party is "typically Harlem"; it is picturesque; something to write novel and plays and sociological treatises about.

Members of the elite keep their heads up also when they know that the environment created by conditions in Harlem cause workers to throw away money on religious and other charlatans and fakers.

Not Ashamed of Abuses

They hold up their heads proudly when they pass a policeman cracking the skull of some non-influential and homeless worker, gratified that they, at least, stand in well with the cops.

But these beaten, driven, harassed and wretched human beings leave off singing their songs and dancing in the streets, unable longer to stand another kick and tired of kissing the feet that kick them.

They smash windows and crack policemen's skulls with stones and help themselves to food and clothes. And the colored elite drop their refined heads in shame.

Olgin's Theory Proved

Everything that happened in Harlem that night went to prove the correctness of Olgin's analysis.

If they were not politically backward (and this is the sense in which "backward" was used) those outraged workers would see and understand the Communists' way of bettering themselves: not by wasting their fine and glorious militancy in anarchist outbursts of passion, but by submitting it to organized direction.

The political backwardness of the Harlemites is proved further by the fact that they are still, by and large, intellectually dominated by religious conjure men and by demagogic politicians of the Democratic and Republican parties.

Yes, Olgin's analysis was correct—and Harlem has proved it.

Guidance Needed

Our task, then, is not one of shame-faced head-hanging; not one of scuttling around the corner to cops with tales of Communist or Red plotting, hoping for favors; not one of saying, as Hubert of the Urban League does, that the riot was caused by the Reds "who had been stirring up unrest," using the lack of jobs as a slogan."

The revolutionary will is alive and eager. We must discipline and guide it. Upon its proper direction depends the liberation of every person in the United States, including such of them as the shamefaced head-hangers, who during slavery, would have been called "trustworthy, good or reliable "d_____s."

Harlem Creates Reds

The fact that ten thousand copies of the Communist Daily Worker were sold in the heart of Harlem a few nights following the outbreak, shows that our workers will learn to discriminate between white exploiters and oppressors, on the one hand, and white comrades and workers, on the other.

The Communists belong to Harlem, because it is there that conditions exist which create them.

For a long while the Communists considered it unbecoming for them to work in the churches. But since James Ford, member of the central committee of the party, became organizer of the Harlem section, the situation has changed.

Link Divine and Ford

The Communists organize in the churches, the masses for struggle for their daily economic demands, and for the defense of their elementary human rights.

As a result, thousands of Harlem's backward now say: "Father Divine is our God. James Ford is our political leader."

Elsewhere in the article Olgin said that the growing unity of colored and white workers added "materially to the struggle of the masses against hunger and their fundamental human rights."

Article Not Exaggerated

Allowing for literary embellishments in the nature of metaphor or simile, the foregoing extract from the Pravda article is literally true of Harlem, as all honest persons who know about Harlem will admit. Subsequent events in that zone have proved that Olgin did not exaggerate.

Nevertheless there were strange but characteristic reactions to the Pravda article in American newspapers.

White Press Reacts

The bourgeois white press treated it as a "report" to Moscow on the "Red gains" in the United States, and hinted that something should be done to suppress "these irresponsible agitators" among us.

The bourgeois white press also grew violent because the Reds were stirring Harlem's "happy-go-lucky" and "contented" population to a state of unrest.

Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., began the attack for the respectable element of his race. Never questioning whether the Hearst or other papers had lied, Mr. White wrote the following letter to Mr. Olin:

White Attacks Olgin . . . . . .

"You are directly quoted . . . as having said in a dispatch to Pravda that Harlem is 'inhabited by a backward, ignorant mass of 250,000 people who live in hunger, poverty and disease.'

"Such an irresponsible, sweeping statement as this could not be surpassed in its viciousness and inaccuracy by Huey Long. Indeed, we do not believe that even Huey Long would be guilty of a statement like this which does infinite harm to us in our efforts against injustice and misrepresentation.

Misrepresentation Charged

"We do not know what members of our race you have met nor what opportunities you have had to see that there are many persons in Harlem who would certainly not fit into your classification.

"In any event, they would not be guilty either of such bad taste as the dispatch quotes you as being responsible for, or of the wholesale slander of a race which has been made to suffer as severely as this race has from misrepresentation."

"Editorial Writers Upset"

A weekly in New York and one in Pittsburgh followed with editorials.

Knowing who the persons are who write these editorials, I feel that I am not mistaken when I surmise that they are upset because they, the George S. Schuylers and the Obie McCollums, along with Walter White and the other elite, had been lumped in with the masses of oppressed, homeless, hungry and half-naked people whom economic conditions have imprisoned in Harlem.

Called Civilized Parasites

These dicties say, in effect: "What do you mean, backward? Why, look at me! I live in a swell apartment. I drive a swell car. I read the Nation and the New Republic. I visit white friends in Greenwich Village. I wear mauve-colored spats and a silk hat. What do you mean, backward?"

It is precisely such "civilized" parasites who are most backward, and who, in their backwardness, help to keep the great masses of their beloved (?) people chained to poverty and despair.

Basic Cause Obvious

Moissaye J. Olgin's analysis of the Harlem situation was correct, and events of the night of March 19 prove it.

Hearst's American and Journal, and every other capitalist newssheet in New York, did all they could to incite the whites, including the state and city governments, to attack the blacks; yet even these papers were forced to tell a part of the truth—that the basic causes of the outbreak were the appalling misery growing out of over-crowding in unfit hovels, unemployment and general discrimination.

The World-Telegram, as rabid as any Hearst paper in news dispatches of the riot, reported seventy-five per cent of all Harlem without work, asserting that "as many as three families, consisting of from ten to fifteen persons, crowd into a five-room apartment."

Describing one such apartment, the World-Telegram's investigator said it "presented a scene of filth and squalor."

Rent Takes Half of Wages

The New York branch of the Urban League, headed by James H. Hubert, certainly knows as much about conditions in Harlem as any organization, now collecting and hiding figures.

The Urban League reported, after a survey a few years ago, that at least half the miserable wage earned by the average head of a Harlem family goes for rent.

Under the best of conditions, no more than a quarter of a month's income should go for rent, the budget-makers tell us, for more than this amount means going without other necessities.

Job Discrimination Acute

But there are, in Harlem, also, two out of every three workers unemployed. Discrimination against workers by rich white concerns like the subway, the telephone and various life insurance companies, and by white enterprises doing business in Harlem, is practiced as a consistent policy.

Relief for the jobless and sick of Harlem is consistently less than it is for whites.

According to Cyril Briggs in the Daily Worker: "The liberal La Guardia administration follows the example of the lynch rulers of the South and gives these starving workers twenty-five per cent less in relief than workers in other sections of the city."

Relief Inequalities

Briggs says that, "In Harlem, the average relief per family is only $28, compared to average monthly city relief of $41 per family."

Victor Suarez, Harlem relief supervisor, says that during February he spent only $214,000 to feed, clothe, and house 7,500 families (including many Latin-Americans); that only $12,000, or $1.60 a family, was spent for clothing.

Rent Evils Cited

Harlem tenants have organized to fight against greedy landlords and evictions. Discussing the riot, a member of one of these organizations told the New York Times (speaking of the masses of workers):

"They are desperate. It is not that they don't want to pay. They just can't.

"The white people can always move, if the rents are raised, but these people are just like being in a box.

"They can't go and live somewhere else in the city, and so, are forced to pay. And so they have rent parties. They sell whiskey or refreshments and they dance and play the numbers. One vice leads to another."

Pent-up Hatred Released

Taken all together, these horrible, uncivilized conditions in which most of the people of Harlem are compelled to live lead sometimes to undisciplined and outraged protest.

The riot was the release of years of pent-up hatred against their oppressors and despair at bettering their condition. It was not a race riot in any sense, and in their hearts the editorial writers of both races know it.

Most of the "leaders" admit that it was not a race riot, for it does not help their own plight to cover up the actual conditions; but the whites who raise this cry would like to see the whole section exterminated.

They hope to raise so great a barrier between the masses of the two races as to make it impossible for them to come together in common organization.

Why Hang Head?

T. E. B., writing under the head of "The Feminist Viewpoint," in a weekly paper, expresses the point of view of her "nice" and "respectable" class when she says that even if all the versions of the riot did not differ, "I would still be hanging my head in shame."

Why does this polite and respectable feminist hang her lovely head in shame? Because, she says, "A riot—a disgraceful display of mob violence — was uncalled for!"

Outbreak Called For

T. E. B. is wrong. The outbreak was called for. It was even prepared for. It was the outcome of years of suffering and degradation and misery such as no human being could put up with forever. The crisis which broke in 1929, and the deep-going depression into which the crisis has settled, have aggravated the Harlemite's awful condition.

Anybody who cannot see this fact is either blind to reality or too stupid to interpret what he sees.

However, T. E. B. does not belong in the category of cowards into which certain editors and other Harlem "leaders" fit so neatly. These gentlemen, when asked by the smelly yellow Hearst newshound what they thought of the "race riot," cried in unison, "Them Communists was the cause of it!"

Foot-kissing Assailed

To what can we ascribe such crawling, foot-kissing, wormy lowness in our "leadership" except desire for the safety to their own worthless and yellow-spotted hides?

Living on the outer fringes of the filth and misery into which most Harlem workers are forced, these respectable gentlemen of the elite are like repulsive beasts of prey. They live upon the wretchedness of "my people," thus helping to preserve it.

Reds Often Only Cure

They will do nothing to cure the fundamental ills of Harlem, and blame the Communists, the only persons who seriously work toward a cure, when the people, unable any longer to stand the pressure, fly into undisciplined, but justifiable, rage.

The workers of Harlem expressed their hatred and resentment just as militant and oppressed workers have always expressed themselves. The ladies and gentlemen on the fringe of Harlem's misery cannot understand all this, and they hang their heads in shame.

Shame Misdirected

They do not hang their heads in shame over the fact that men, women and children must live from ten to fifteen together in space enough for only two or three. They do not hang their heads in shame when fine and promising young girls, because of this overcrowding, are headed toward prostitution.

They do not hang their heads in shame over the fact that the rent party contributes to the degradation of both boys and girls. Oh, No! The rent party is "typically Harlem"; it is picturesque; something to write novel and plays and sociological treatises about.

Members of the elite keep their heads up also when they know that the environment created by conditions in Harlem cause workers to throw away money on religious and other charlatans and fakers.

Not Ashamed of Abuses

They hold up their heads proudly when they pass a policeman cracking the skull of some non-influential and homeless worker, gratified that they, at least, stand in well with the cops.

But these beaten, driven, harassed and wretched human beings leave off singing their songs and dancing in the streets, unable longer to stand another kick and tired of kissing the feet that kick them.

They smash windows and crack policemen's skulls with stones and help themselves to food and clothes. And the colored elite drop their refined heads in shame.

Olgin's Theory Proved

Everything that happened in Harlem that night went to prove the correctness of Olgin's analysis. If they were not politically backward (and this is the sense in which "backward" was used) those outraged workers would see and understand the Communists' way of bettering themselves: not by wasting their fine and glorious militancy in anarchist outbursts of passion, but by submitting it to organized direction.

The political backwardness of the Harlemites is proved further by the fact that they are still, by and large, intellectually dominated by religious conjure men and by demagogic politicians of the Democratic and Republican parties.

Yes, Olgin's analysis was correct—and Harlem has proved it.

Guidance Needed

Our task, then, is not one of shame-faced head-hanging; not one of scuttling around the corner to cops with tales of Communist or Red plotting, hoping for favors; not one of saying, as Hubert of the Urban League does, that the riot was caused by the Reds "who had been stirring up unrest," using the fact that ten thousand copies of the Communist Daily Worker were sold in the heart of Harlem a few nights following the outbreak, shows that our workers will learn to discriminate between white exploiters and oppressors, on the one hand, and white comrades and workers, on the other.

The Communists belong to Harlem, because it is there that conditions exist which create them.

Harlem Creates Reds

The revolutionary will is alive and eager. We must discipline and guide it. Upon its proper direction depends the liberation of every person in the United States, including such of them as the shamefaced head-hangers, during slavery, would have been called "d——s."

Riots - 1935

New York.

VARIED GROUPS HIT BODY APPOINTED TO PROBE HARLEM RIOT

Investigation Opened as Public Hearings Are Set for Today

PRAISE RANDOLPH

Other Members Scored as Additions Are Asked to Body

With its first public hearing into the causes of last week's riot scheduled to be held in the Seventh District Municipal Court at 10 o'clock this morning (Saturday), the bi-racial committee appointed by Mayor LaGuardia was the target of an almost unified community attack yesterday.

From the "men in the street," a score of whom gave their opinions to a reporter for The Amsterdam News; from the Interdenominational Preachers Meeting of Greater New York and Vicinity, which boarded the mayor in person at a regular meeting Monday, and from a half dozen civic organizations came open attacks on the committee and on the city's chief executive.

Among the larger civic organizations which criticized the composition of the committee of six Negroes and five whites were the New York chapter of the National Association of College Women, the Central Committee of Harlem Parents Associations, the Harlem Commitee on Public Policy and the Consolidated Tenants' League. These organizations sent resolutions to the mayor suggesting that he add other names to the body which will begin its investigations today.

The committee appointed by Mayor LaGuardia one day after last Tuesday's riot include Dr. Charles Roberts, chairman; Oswald Garrison Villard, white liberal publisher, vice-chairman, and Mrs. Eunice Hunton Carter, secretary. The other Negro members are Hubert Delany, tax commissioner; Countee Cullen, poet; A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and Municipal Court Justice Charles E. Toney. The other whites include William Jay Schieffelin, trustee of Tuskegee Institute; Morris Ernst and Arthur Garfield Hays, civil liberties attornies, and Col. John J. Grimley of the 369th Infantry.

Holds First Meeting.

The committee held its organizational meeting at the Seventh District Municipal Court, 447 West 151st street, Monday and appointed three sub-committees to probe different angles of the riot. Justice Toney, Mr. Schieffelin, Attorney Hays and Mrs. Carter will investigate the "outburst" (the committee rejected the term "riot"); Attorney Ernst, Mr. Cullen and Mr. Villard will probe the housing situation, and Commissioner Delany, Col. Grimley and Mr. Randolph will inquire into discrimination against Negroes in employment in New York City.

All persons wishing to give any type of evidence at the hearings were asked by the committee to send "suggestions or information" to Mrs. Carter, the secretary, at the court address, 447 West 151st street. The committee held its second meeting yesterday (Friday) in the building.

Cullen, Delany Hit.

One of the most bitter attacks on the mayor's investigatiing body was made by the Harlem Committee on Public Policy at a meeting held last Friday at the 135th street Y. M. C. A. Speakers at this meeting held that only one person named, A. Philip Randolph, was qualified to investigate the economic conditions which precipitated the riot. Special censure was directed at the naming of Mr. Cullen, a poet, and Mr. Delany, a Fusion appointee on the body.

Charles M. Hanson, chairman of this group, charged that Mayor LaGuardia had refused to see Negro delegations which could have warned him that housing conditions, unemployment and discrimination in relief would eventually have precipitated the outburst. The group passed resolutions calling for the enlargement of the mayor's committee to include "more qualified" persons and planned sessions with other civic groups seeking to remedy economic evils here.

College Women Rebuffed.

In a letter to Mayor LaGuardia, the New York chapter of the National Association of College Women last week urged the official to make the committee more representative by adding three names. The letter stated: "Our awareness of the underlying implications leads us to request a wider representation of community thinking on your committee, and we suggest that Mrs. C. C. Saunders, who has had twenty-five years social work experience in the community; Mr. Cole McCollum, editor of The Amsterdam News, and the Rev. John H. Johnson, chairman of the Citizens Committee, which has been unusually close to the 125th street employment situation could render valuable service to your committee."

Informed by L. B. Dunham, secretary to the mayor that "the membership of the committee was completed the day before yesterday (last Wednesday)," the association issued a statement which held that "We believe that this community has a right to ask so important a fact-finding body to be truly representative of all the important forces in Harlem so that the facts may be made available to the whole city and more important still so that results may result which will not make a recurrence of such violence possible."

Tenants Hit Body.

In a resolution which stated that "The Consolidated Tenants' League does not feel that the Negro members (of the mayor's committee) with the exception of Mr. A. Philip Randolph are sufficiently free from political and other affiliations and views to render them capable of obtaining the proper economic-social view of the problem that organization urged Mayor LaGuardia to place the following persons on his committee: Frank Crosswaith, labor organizer; Dr. Cyril Dolly, physician; the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., of Abyssinian Baptist Church, and Mrs. Minnie Green of the Tenants' League.

Declaring that "To understand the recent happenings in Harlem it is necessary to understand concretely the relationship of school, home and community," the Central Committee of Harlem Parents' Associations, of which Mrs. Eddie Aspinall is executive secretary, urged the mayor to appoint one of their group to his committee.

The members of the Interdominational Preachers Meeting of Greater New York and Vicinity, delivered their criticism to Mayor LaGuardia in person Monday afternoon, when the executive appeared before them to "ask publicly for co-operation." Terming themselves as those whom were regarded by the people as the real leaders of the community, the ministers charged that the mayor had ignored them by not placing one of their number on his committee.

Mayor LaGuardia admitted that he might have been at fault in not placing one minister on the committee, but stated that he did not wish to offend any denomination by appointing a clergyman of opposing faith. He told the group that "You have ideas, information, plans which would be helpful to this committee. I suggest that you form an advisory committee of your own to establish contact with the Mayor's Committee. And I want you to know that there is complete understanding between City Hall and this section of the community."

After the mayor promised to consider the appointment of one minister to his body, the group pledged him support in the investigation and elected the Rev. J. W. Robinson, former pastor of St. Mark's M. E. Church, as its representative.

The "average citizen" of Harlem interviewed by a reporter for The Amsterdam News, criticized the mayor's committee mainly by contending that none of the persons appointed was seriously affected by the conditions which precipitated the rioting. The opinions of a number of these 'men in the street" appear in a special article on Page 9.

Priest Hits Reds.

Criticism was directed in other channels also as a result of the March 19 rioting. Father William R. McCann, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, 211 West 141st street, in a long statement to his parishioners, laid the blame for the rioting on the Communists and urged them to join him in a movement to keep the white Communists out of Harlem.

In calling a meeting for last Wednesday night at the Y. M. C. A., a group of Negro and white community leaders, headed by Robert W. Searle and the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., issued a statement that "It is quite apparent that in certain well known quarters there is a move to turn attention toward a 'Red Baiting Crusade.' This would be not only a miscarriage of justice, but a tragic diversion of energy...Everyone realizes that the events of the other night were an hysterical outburst resulting from a terrific emotional tension that has been building up during these tragic depression years."

After its meeting Monday afternoon, the mayor's committee issued a statement to the effect that "The committee is already agreed that the disturbances were merely symbols and symptoms; that the public health safety and welfare in colored Harlem have long been jeopardized by economic and social conditions which the depression has intensified. It asks public co-operation and will welcome any suggestions and information which should be sent to the secretary, Mrs. Eunice Hunton Carter, in care of the Seventh District Municipal Court, 147 West 151st street."

Mayor LaGuardia's references to irresponsible elements in last week's Harlem riot were denounced as "a compaign of slander and red-baiting used as an attempt to screen the Mayor's direct responsibility," in a resolution adopted by 250 Negro and white persons in Brooks Memorial Church, 107-14 Pinegrove street, Jamaica, on Wednesday night.

Speakers at the rally included James Egert Allen, president of the New York branch of the N. A. A. C. P.; Mrs. Geraldine Chaney, chairman of the Jamaica Committee for Equal Opportunities; Dr. William Lefkowitz, secretary of the Jamaica Committee; and Richard B. Moore, national organizer of the International Labor Defense.

The meeting was sponsored by the Committee for Equal Opportunities to make public facts about the Harlem events, to bring out the similarity between conditions in Harlem and in certain parts of Queens County, and to adopt certain demands which were sent to Mayor LaGuardia.

One of the resolutions called upon the Mayor to name a member of the Committee for Equal Opportunities to his committee which is investigating Harlem conditions and to extend the scope of the probe to include conditions in Queens.

The Union Mechanics Association, Inc., of which Bertram Taylor is busines manager, has called a mass meeting for Monday night at the St. Mark's Hall on 138th street near Lenox avenue. Prominent speakers will discuss the riot from the standpoint of union labor in the community. All civic, social and labor organizations have been invited to attend.

Probing Outbreak

Commissioner Hubert T. Delany

Mrs. Eunice H. Carter

REFLECTIONS ON THE HARLEM "RIOT"

Now that the Harlem so-called riot is some weeks behind us, we can view the occurrence with becoming calmness. It was quite evidently a protest against economic discrimination and jim crowism on the part of grasping merchants, who in far too many colored communities are eager to take all and leave nothing.

Nothing has been gained by this hooliganism and vandalism, of course. No additional Negroes have secured employment, and it is unlikely that such tactics will be successful in getting additional jobs. Nevertheless, the feeling of the Negroes can be understood now by everybody, and to that extent the "riot" was educational.

Negroes will have to go about this employment problem another way. If they cannot secure employment in certain stores, there is nothing to prevent them from withholding their patronage or shifting it to stores operated by Negroes. There is no law compelling a Negro to trade where he doesn't want to trade.

We must learn to punish our enemies and reward our friends quietly and without ballyhoo or violence.

CROWD TURBULENT AT HARLEM INQUIRY

Many at Hearing by Hays's Committee Still Believe Boy Was Killed in Store.

HOUSING IS CRITICIZED

Commissioner Post, Testifying for Ernst Group, Holds Rents Are Too High.

The residents of Harlem aired their complaints yesterday as two divisions of the Mayor's Commission on conditions in that area held all day hearings in the courtrooms of the Municipal Court at 445 West 151st Street.

One was devoted to finding the cause of the March 19 riots. Presided over by Arthur Garfield Hays, it was turbulent, noisy and emotional. The other was devoted to housing and there Tenement House Commissioner Post, among many other witnesses, testified. Morris L. Ernst presided.

At the opening of Mr. Hays's hearing, he read into the record a letter which District Attorney Dodge had sent to Police Commissioner Valentine, in which the police were ordered not to testify concerning any case pending in any court or before a grand jury.

"I am responsible for the careful preservation of evidence of crime," he said. "The committee asked us for the evidence before the grand jury and we refused to produce it. I won't give out any evidence except to the court."

"I don't think the attitude of the District Attorney is tenable, and I think it will be withdrawn," Mr. Hays commented.

Housing Held Background.

The testimony on housing provided a background against which the rioting assumed, in the mind of Mr. Ernst, additional significance. Fred Benedict, representing the Unemployed Council of Upper Harlem, 109 West 113th Street, told of poor living conditions.

All over the area, Mr. Post said, rents are abnormally high. Families pay 40 per cent and more of their income for rent, he said, adding that health conditions are worse than in any other comparable area in the city. Mr. Post said that low-cost housing, with rooms renting from $5 to $7 a month, on a large scale, would be the only effective cure.

Meanwhile downstairs about 400 of the people who live in the area were listening to Mr. Hays's efforts to learn the cause of the riots.

On March 19 Lino Rivera, a 16-year-old Puerto Rican boy, was caught stealing a 5-cent knife in the S. H. Kress store on 125th Street near Seventh Avenue. A crowd collected outside, and was fanned into action by a circular distributed by a group of Communists that a boy had been murdered by the manager and employes of the store. The rioting followed.

Believe a Boy Was Killed.

The thing which made the hearing turbulent was the unwillingness of those gathered there, often booing or cheering, to believe that a boy had not actually been murdered in the store. Rivera, who lives with his mother at 472 St. Nicholas Avenue, took the stand and declared that he had not been beaten or injured in any way.

"He's a paid witness," some of those in the room shouted. "He wasn't the only boy in that store." "The police are covering up," others exclaimed.

Robert C. Minor, Communist leader, who had cross-examined Rivera, took the witness stand at Mr. Hays's suggestion. After considerable parrying and sparring he admitted that the afternoon the leaflet charging murder was circulated there was no evidence to prove the charge. He was asked if, in view of the error, he wished to apologize for the circulation.

"If an error was committeed," said Mr. Minor, "it is regrettable and should be corrected. But I am not yet convinced it was an error." The crowd cheered him.

Mr. Hays then took up the case of Lloyd Hobbs, 16-year-old Negro boy, who was killed by a policeman's bullet in the rioting. The boy's father, Lawyer Hobbs of 321 St. Nicholas Avenue; Howard Malloy and Arthur Moore, both of 213 West 128th Street, and Russell Hobbs, a brother, told of the shooting. They declared that the boy had been shot as he tried to run away, and that Patrolman McInerny of the East 104th Street station, who fired the shot, had not commanded him to halt. This case will be continued at the next hearing, on April 20 in the same place.

Riots - 1935

New York

COURTS GIVEN RIOT CHARGES

Amsterdam News

Scores Sentenced or Held at Hearings by Magistrates

3-23-35

The Harlem and Washington Heights Magistrates' Courts groaned under the deluge of cases originating in the riot Tuesday night.

The Grand Jury also went into action Thursday and returned seven indictments against alleged rioters.

New York Times

Presiding at Harlem Court, Magistrate Renaud heard the following cases and complaints:

MURRAY SAMUELS, 19, white, 621 Twenty-fifth avenue, Brooklyn; SAM JAMESON, 19, white, 977 East 178th street; DANIEL MILLER, 25, 35 Morningside avenue, and CLAUDIO VIALOBO, colored, 59, 202 West 132d street, inciting riot, $2,500 bail, hearings on Monday. To be represented by lawyers of the International Labor Defense.

HARRY GORDON, white, 19, 699 Prospect avenue, $1,000 bail, hearing Monday. N. Y. University student. Called "ring leader." Inciting crowd in speech from box after which riot started. Was represented by lawyers from the International Labor Defense.

THOMAS JACKSON, 22, 253 West 121st street, and Robert Tanner, 17 218 West 126th street, burglary, $1,000 bail each, Grand Jury, breaking in and stealing from a cigar store at 1976 Seventh avenue.

LAWRENCE HUMPHREY, 35, 55 West 132d street, burglary, $1,000 Grand Jury, smashing window of grocery store at 2180 Fifth avenue and stealing groceries valued at $100.

JOHN K. JONES, 24, 135 West 119th street, $1,000, Grand Jury, inciting riot in front of store at 338 Lenox avenue.

EDWARD LARRY, 26, Salvation Army, 224 West 124th street, robbery without bail for Grand Jury. He and a number of others are alleged to have smashed all of the windows of the Toby Haberdashery, 125th street and Lenox avenue, invaded the store and terrorized the salesmen, carrying out merchandise valued at $5,000. He was arrested when he tried to get in a taxicab with [illegible] haberdashery in his possession.

Amsterdam News

LEROY GILLARD, 46, 208 West 128th street, and Jean Jacqueline, 27, 222 West 128th street, burglary, $1,000 each, Grand Jury. Smashed windows at tailor shop at 200 West 128th street and stole suits.

3-23-35

HEZEKIAH WRIGHT, 36, 155 West 123d street, $1,000, Grand Jury, burglary, smashed windows at delicatessen store at 2067 Fifth avenue, and stole a quantity of groceries.

New York Times

HORACE FOWLER, 32, 362 Lenox avenue, burglary, $1,000, Grand Jury. Broke window at store of Nicholas Pest, 206 East 137th street, and stole coat. Was arrested by Detective Booker of the 123d street station.

ARNOLD FORD, 19, 246 East 136th street, and Joseph Moore, 46, 243 East 136th street, burglary, $1,000 each, Grand Jury, smashed window of gent's store, 400 Lenox avenue. Stole $1,000 merchandise. Arrested on Third avenue Bridge at 130th street, and found in possession of most of the goods.

LEON MURAINE, 22, 52 West 128th street, and David Smith, 22, 2094 Fifth avenue, $1,000 each, Grand Jury, inciting riot at 126th street and Lenox avenue. Alleged to have addressed a group of men urging them to smash windows.

JOHN VIVIEN, 27, 483 Manhattan avenue, burglary, $1,000 bail, Grand Jury. Broke window of Regal Shoe Store, 166 West 125th street and stole pair of shoes valued at $5.55.

JOHN KING, 28, 2905 Eighth avenue, $1,000, Grand Jury. Inciting riot at 125th street and Seventh avenue.

JOSEPH WADE, 24, 148 West 127th street, without bail, Grand Jury, burglary. Smashed window of candy store owned by Frank DeThomas, 101 West 127th street, and stole toy pistols.

EMMET WILLIAMS, 28, 243 West 127th street, $500 bail, Special Sessions, malicious mischief. Smashed window of butcher shop at 2360 Eighth avenue, and Theodore Hughes, 22, 50 Old Broadway, white, charged with stealing two pieces of pork out of window, petty larceny, $500 bail, Special Sessions.

CHARLES WRIGHT, 22, 2056 Pemberton street, Philadelphia, and William Norris, 22, 201 West 122d street $500 bail each, Special Sessions, malicious mischief. Threw ash can through window at 2275 Eighth avenue.

DAVID BRAGG, 22, 235 West 131st street, $1,000 bail, Special Sessions. Malicious mischief. Smashed window of grocery store at 2061 Seventh avenue.

ROSE MORRELL, 19, 260 West 126th street, $500, Special Sessions. Malicious mischief. Threw bottle through window of store at 2366 Eighth avenue.

HENRY STEWART, 33, 263 West 132d street, $500, Special Sessions. Malicious mischief. Threw bottle through window at 2422 Eighth avenue.

JAMES HAYES, 16, 476 West 141st street, $500, Special Sessions. Petty larceny. Stole hat from hat store at 2334 Eighth avenue after window had been broken.

TOM BABBITT, 42, 321 West 136th street, $500, Special Sessions. Petty larceny. Stole two cases og soap and tooth brushes from drug store at 2374 Eighth avenue.

JAMES HUGHES, 24, 1890 Seventh avenue, felonious assault, $1,000 bail hearing Friday. In front of Kress Store he threw a stone which struck Detective Henry Roge of the East 104th street station on the forehead, which required two stitches in Harlem Hospital.

MARGARET MITCHELL, 18, 283 West 150th street, disorderly conduct, found guilty, sentenced today (Saturday). Created disturbance at Kress store, refused to leave when ordered and threw the contents of several counters to floor.

ISAAC DANIELS, 29, 23 West 130th street, felonious assault, $1,000 bail, hearing today (Saturday). Threw stone through window of store at 343 Lenox avenue, with the result that he inflicted wounds on the proprietor, Herman Young, who was treated at Harlem Hospital for cuts on the head.

LEO SMITH, 18, 305 East 118th street, found guilty of disorderly conduct, sentenced today (Saturday). Smashed window of store at 2138 Seventh avenue.

RIVERA WRIGHT, 21, 2137 Seventh avenue, found guilty of disorderly conduct with several others when he hit a man at 125th street and Lenox avenue. Sentence today (Saturday).

CHARLES S. SAUNDERS, 19, 1967 Seventh avenue, burglary, $1,000 bail, hearing today (Saturday), smashed window of shoe store at 1985 Seventh avenue and stole several pairs of shoes.

JAMES BRIGHT, 23, 44 West 133d street, and Arthur Bennett, 28, 48 West 119th street, found guilty of disorderly conduct, sentence on today (Saturday). Smashing windows.

BERNARD SMITH, 39, 116 West 126th street, malicious mischief, $500 bail, hearing Monday. Threw two bricks through window of store at 317 Lenox avenue. Also charged with inciting riot and held in additional bail for $1,000 hearing on same day.

LEROY BROWN, 22, 2493 Eighth avenue, held on two charges, inciting riot and malicious mischief. $1,500 both charges, hearing Monday. Threw tailor's dummy through window of tailor shop at 2147 Seventh avenue. Also shouted to a crowd of men urging them to smash windows.

Heights Court.

LAMTER JACKSON, 24, 78 West 135th stret, stole bundle of laundry from window of 1 West 131st street after it had been smashed. $100, Special Sessions.

EARL DAVIS, 26, 110 West 127th street, $1,000, Special Sessions, petty larceny. Took bolt of woolens from tailor shop at 531 Lenox avenue after window had been broken.

JULIUS HIGHTOWER, 18, 204 West 143th street, five days in jail.

ROBERT PORTER, 42, 221 West 141st street, five days.

SALATHIL SMITH, 47, 246 West 121st street, two days in jail.

WALTER JONES, 29, 152 West 121st street, ten days in workhouse.

JAMES LLOYD, 23, 7 Ludlow street, six months in workhouse.

CHARLES JONES, 26, 108 West 134th street, ten days in workhouse.

VERNON DANIEL, 38, 102 West 143d street, five days in jail.

JOSEPH FERNANDEZ, 23, 15 West 118th street, thirty days in workhouse.

FRANK HALL, 46, 28 West 132d street, five days in workhouse.

PORTER O'NEILL, 24, 34 West 135th street, five days.

ROOSEVELT DRAYTON, 21, 10 West 134th street, thirty days.

JAMES SIMON, 33, 170 East 129th street, thirty days.

ALBERT BROWN, 20, 149 West 133d street, thirty days.

CHARLES DESOTA, 27, 170 East 129th street, rioting, thirty days in workhouse.

JACK BERRY, 33, 142 West 131st street, and Homer Thomas, 21, 220 East Twenty-third street, attempting to loot hat store at 437 Lenox avenue, after window had been smashed, three days in jail.

ROBERT BANKS, 23, 205 West 112th street, rioting, ten days in workhouse.

JAMES SMITH, 48, 112 West 136th street, rioting, six months in workhouse.

RICHARD JACKSON, 22, 102 West 119th stret, assaulted Vito Catozzi, 3764 Bronx boulevard, two days in jail.

RAYMOND TAYLOR, 28, 2223 Fifth avenue, burglary, $1,000 bail, hearing Tuesday. Smashed window at A. & P. Store, at 135th street and Lenox avenue, and stole groceries.

PRESTON WHITE, 42, 26 West 134th street, broke into A. & P. Store, between 134th and 135th street, on Lenox avenue and stole groceries. No bail, hearing on Tuesday.

RAYMOND EASELY, 21, 218 West 113th street, burglary, $1,000 bail, hearing Wednesday; $500 additional bail for hearing on Wednesday for violation of Sullivan Law for possessing razor. Stole quantity of merchandise from cigar store owned by Jack Garmise, 1916 Seventh avenue.

JOHN HENRY, 16, 313 West 118th street, and Oscar Leacock, 20, 39 West 118th street, burglary, $1,000 bail each. Stealing merchandise from store at 372 Lenox avenue after window had been smashed.

LOUIS COBB, 38, 473 Lenox avenue, burglary, $1,500 bail, hearing Friday. Broke window of liquor store at 452 Lenox avenue and stole bottle of whiskey.

JOSEPH PAYNE, 23, 23 East 128th street, $1,500 bail, Friday. Burglary at A. and P. store on Lenox avenue between 134th and 135th streets.

VIOLA WOODS, 28, 301 West 130th street, smashed window at 2314 Eighth avenue with umbrella, disorderly conduct, $100 bail, hearing Friday.

ELVA JACOBS, 13, 56 West 142d street, $1,500, hearing Friday. Burglary, stole groceries from store at 102 West 127th street.

COURTNEY MARSH, 43, 263 West 153d street, $1,500, hearing on Friday, rioting.

HARRY CARTER, 30, 121 Bowery, disorderly conduct. Standing on corner of 125th street and Lenox avenue Thursday selling The Daily Worker, shouting about the strike. He was arrested when he refused to move on and stop shouting. A white man, Edmund Donnelly, 30, Mills Hotel, Thirty-sixth street and Seventh avenue, who interferred, was also arrested; $25 bail each, hearing Monday, Special Sessions.

HYMAN MOORE, 35, 204 West 120th street, violation of Sullivan Act for carrying a knife, which, he says he took from a boy to prevent the boy from injuring himself. $100 bail, Special Sessions.

ARTHUR HAYWARD, 33, 253 West 133d street, kicked in show case at 2474 Eighth avenue. Given five days.

LEADERS SEEK HARLEM PROBE

Amsterdam News

Deplore Rioting, but Ask Correction of Economic Evils

Meeting Wednesday at the home of the Rev. A. C. Powell, Jr., assistant pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church, Negro and white leaders of Harlem issued a statement deploring the racial outbreak of the previous day and calling for an investigation of the "basic economic maladjustments" behind the incident.

The statement, signed by leaders of all political, racial and civic groups in the community, reads:

"In deploring the situation that has arisen in Harlem in the last few days, this committee recognizes the increasingly friendly relation between the white and Negro citizens of New York. We wish to call public attention to the fact that beneath the recent disturbance in Harlem lie basic economic maladjustments. These are concerned primarily with segregation and discrimination against the Negro people in employment, both private and public as well as in the administration of relief. We call for an open investigation of this situation and express our determination to see that these conditions are thoroughly investigated and appropriate action taken to correct them.

Deplore Violence.

"We deplore the violence which has already occurred and call upon all citizens of Harlem to restrain the relatively small group among them from further lawless actions. We further call upon the white citizens of New York to avoid any provocative and retaliatory action.

"We commend the fairness of the majority of the press in reporting the situation and deeply deplore the inflammatory presentation of the event by certain "yellow" journals.

We appeal to the press, the leaders of public poinion and to the public to co-operate in preventing any further unfortunate outbreaks and to assist in removing the basic causes of the present disturbance."

Among those who signed the resolution were Frank Crosswaith, Socialist and labor leader; Leonard Stidley, Church of All Nations; Dorothy McConnell, American League Against War and Fascism; W. B. Blair, Greater New York Federation of Churches; Professor Margaret Forsyte, Teachers' College; Robert A. Semple, St. Nicholas Collegiate Church; Doris Pender, Teachers' College; Lelia York, Women's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Church; Ben Davis, editor of the Liberator; A. W. Berry, League of Struggle for Negro Rights; James Wise, representing Dr. Harry Ward.

Other Names.

Also Dr. George E. Haynes, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in American; James W. Ford, chairman of the Harlem section of the Communist party; Rose Terlin, National Students' Council; Eugene Shrigley Methodist Federation of Social Service; Henry K. Craft, executive secretary of the Y. M. C. A.; Alan L. Dingle, president of the Harlem Political Union; Herman Laster, Baptist Young People's Union of Greater New York; Doctors Arthur Swift and Charles Webber, Union Theological Seminary; Obie McCollum, editor of The Amsterdam News; A. L. King president of the U. N. I. A.; Fred Thompson, Republican leader of the Thirteenth A. D.; Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Sr., pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church, and the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Jr., assistant pastor; Rev. Horatio Hill, director of the Harlem Baptist Center, and the Rev George Sims, pastor of Union Baptist Church.

The interracial meeting was attended also by Morris Tobin, president of the Harlem Merchants' Association; Harvey Raymond, executive secretary, and Louis Wenn, vice-president. They were accompanied by a uniformed police captain. The business leaders expressed themselves as pained at the action of hoodlums and misguided persons who wrecked stores owned by many members of the association.

They reiterated their oft-repeated pledge to employ Negroes in their establishments as rapidly as economic conditions would permit, and pleaded for Harlem's leaders to restrain the lawless element. They made it clear that business men would move from Harlem if they found it unsafe to operate their establishments here.

The Rev. Richard M. Bolden, pastor of the First Emanuel Church, 105 West 130th street, had this to say of the riot: "I do not believe we should play up the idea that a race riot is in our midst. From my observations as I watched the hoodlums coming from 125th street up Lenox avenue, smashing the windows of shops and stores, the object seemed to have been to loot the places. I did not observe any conflict between whites and Negroes. Many of the boys and young men who did much of the crashing in of windows, went on their ways but they were followed up by others who took from windows and other parts of the building whatever they found and walked away with their loot. Many of them had liquor as well as clothing.

"I do not see any necessity for a bi-racial commission on a matter such as this. I am sure that Mayor LaGuardia knows that the basic condition is unemployment and if these people could have their activities directed in useful occupations this rioting would never have happened. I also noted that there were many whites with these fomentors of trouble. That is the result of the recent campaigns against the shop and store keepers, who have not given what the people of this community believe to be adequate employment. Agitation and looting are not common to any race. Therefore I hope that the people of our community will realize that there is just as fine a group of law abiding citizens here as anywhere else in the city."

700 Officers, 25 Radio Cars Quell Rioters

Arrest 150 In Uproar Caused By False-Alarm Death

FIFTY IN HOSPITALS

Four Thousand Men And Women Take Part In Stir

By G. JAMES FLEMING
Special to Journal and Guide

NEW YORK CITY — Rioting which caused destruction to the plate-glass windows of over 200 stores in Harlem Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning and sent nearly 50 people wounded to the hosiptals, has left Black Manhattan battle-scarred and uneasy. Seven hundred policement, six emergency trucks, and 25 radio cars were still doing extra duty at noon Wednesday, and everybody was hoping that there would be no second episode to Tuesday night's holocaust.

About four thousand colored men and women and their white sympathizers took the law into their own hands when they heard that "a small Negro boy" had been brutally or fatally beaten by a manager of a five and ten cent store for stealing either candy or a penknife valued at five cents.

Once Reported Dead

It was impossible in the early stages of the riot for newspaper-men to learn whether the boy had actually been beaten or not. As night grew it was said that the boy had died and his body was still in the store.

More policemen came. More spectators gathered. The Young Liberators, white and colored, flooded the streets with circulars calling upon "workers, white and black, to protest against this lynch attack on innocent Negro people."

It was said, too, that a woman, who had protested the boy's beating, had been attacked by the police.

150 Under Arrest

And then—striking anti-climax—early Wednesday morning Lino Rivera, 16, accused of stealing the small article, was located and admitted to the police that he had not been harmed. He did not know that his small act had started a riot the worst that Harlem has had in 25 years. About 150 arrests were made.

Store fronts of all sizes, most of them owned by white merchants were demolished. Those employing Negroes in high positions were not spared.

Some Negro establishments were among the 200 which lost their plate-glass windows, and had the window contents looted.

Finally, some Negro stores, in the affected area—110th to 125th Streets, Lenox to Eighth Avenues—had to resort to self-preserving signs such as "Colored," "Owned by Colored," and "Black."

Harlem's riot recalls several other outbreaks in northern cities last year, among the largest of which was the 36-hour rampage in Philadelphia last August of over five thousand people incensed over the attack of a Jewish storekeeper on an expectant Negro mother.

Neither the riots in Pittsburgh was serious enough—approximated nor Niagra Falls each of which the Philadelphia outbreak which is exceeded only by the Harlem riot.

For two nights and a day following the beating of Mrs. Lucille Suber, an uncontrollable mob of five thousand stormed the Ridge section venting its wrath against all Jewish storekeepers.

42 Windows Broken

The plate glass windows of 42 stores were broken and their contents scattered about the streets while police, unable to do anything more than keep the rioters moving, made no arrests.

The Ridge section which is one of the most densely populated Negro sections in that city is likewise the principal marketing area for North Philadelphia.

Streets extending in every direction from the three-way intersection of Columbia and Ridge Avenues and Twenty-third Street are lined with stores operated by Jews and patronized almost entirely by Negroes.

These bore the brunt of the assault of the incensed mob which was augmented, it was reported by contingents from Chester and Wilmington, Del., nearby cities.

"Not Jews"—Signs

In desperation many storekeepers posted signs in front of their establishments stating emphatically that they were not Jews. These in some cases brought them immunity but in others they were ignored.

Serious injuries were few while Seventy persons were arrested minor hurts could not be estimated. finally but all were released.

As in the Harlem outbreak, the provocation was slight in its final analysis. The difference in the brands of soap led to an argument between Mrs. Suber and a Jewish storekeeper who finally became so enraged that he is reported to have attempted to throw her out of his store.

She naturally resisted and a scuffle ensued between her, the storekeeper and his wife who came to his aid. A baker making a delivery is also alleged to have joined in.

When Mrs. Suber reported the matter to her husband, he went to remonstrate with the storekeeper. Meanwhile the news had been circulated that "A Jew beat a pregnant colored woman." That touched off the spark.

Riots—1935

New York

The Truth About the Harlem Events of March 19

By OAKLEY JOHNSON

Daily Worker 3-29-35 New York, N.Y.

ARTICLE I

The newspaper reading public is aware that "disturbances" took place during seven hours of Tuesday afternoon and evening, lasting up until three o'clock of Wednesday morning, March 19 and 20. It is known that on that night several thousand people of Harlem, mostly Negroes, congregated on the streets in the vicinity of Kress Department Store, 125th Street near Seventh Avenue; that 500 policemen, along with scores of mounted police, and hundreds of plain-clothes detectives, were mobilized to put down the "riot"; that store windows were smashed and supplies destroyed or carried off, the property loss estimated at $350,000.

It is known that police action in "subduing" the "riot" and the other official steps taken have resulted in the following:

Four persons dead thus far, three from shooting, one from "concussion."

Seven others shot, most of them seriously injured.

Forty-seven injured received hospital treatment.

One hundred and thirty-five arrested.

Sixteen or more indicted by a grand jury.

About a dozen already convicted and fined or jailed for looting, "disorderly conduct," "inciting to riot," or shouting aloud because a Negro boy was being beaten.

Officials Make Charges

It is known that Mayor F. H. LaGuardia and District Attorney William C. Dodge have made various charges about "incitement by irresponsible persons," about revolt by Communists and anarchists, and talked about deportation of foreign born and Reds, with the Hearst press leading a lurid and scurrilous attack upon the Communist Party as the responsible cause for the incidents that took place.

It is known that two committees are investigating the affair: one is the Mayor's own committee, the other is a Citizens' Emergency Committee formed by Negro and white residents of New York upon their own initiative.

It is known, finally, that the Harlem Merchants' Association wired Governor Herbert Lehman for military troops to be sent into Harlem; and that Negro Assemblyman James E. Stephens introduced a resolution into the State legislature calling for an investigation of the Harlem trouble.

The varied reports and explanations by the police and prosecutors and by the press are mutually contradictory. District Attorney Dodge, unwillingly immersed in an investigation of vice and gambling rackets, apparently is seizing the opportunity of the "riot" to allow the vice probe to die a quick death and to advance his political fortunes; the Hearst press is obviously carrying out the studied anti-labor, anti-Red, and anti-Soviet policy it has been following for the past months.

The Actual Events

As made clear by the statements of eye-witnesses, the actual incidents are as follows:

About four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, while some 500 shoppers—chiefly Negro women—were in the Kress store, a Negro boy was chased through the store by two store detectives, Stephen Urban and C. J. Hurley, and caught in the rear of the store. He was supposed to have taken something from a counter. The two private dicks, under the order of Jackson Smith, the Southern-born manager of the store (named after Stonewall Jackson, and said to have been given the job because he "knew how to handle Negroes") were not at all gentle with the boy. Hundreds of customers saw the struggle. Negro women heard one of the men tell the boy, "I'm going to take you down to the basement and beat hell out of you."

It was a climatic finish to months of endurance of studied insolence toward Negroes, of other comparable rough action by the white owners of Harlem stores. "The customers in the store were thrown into a fever of excitement," says the New York Times.

Police Clear Store

The boy was dragged into a rear office, out of sight. Women shoppers, indignant, tense, stood waiting, with parcels in their hands, for the boy to be released. Police were called. The police went into the rear office to confer with the manager, then emerged to clear the store.

The shoppers, waiting for the boy to be set free, anxious for his safety, refused to leave. The police became more insolent and rough. Some of the shoppers angrily knocked some goods off of counters onto the floor. Others, incensed at the police and enraged by what had happened, began to shove merchandise on the floor, to tip over counters and tables.

The rumor spread. Harlem knows of the scores of unprovoked police beatings of Negroes in recent months. As the police forced out the shoppers and the store was closed, hundreds more gathered in the street. The rumor spread. Was the boy being beaten yet? Where was he? Was he unconscious? Was he alive?

Who Was the Boy?

The police say that the boy was not a small black boy of perhaps 12 years of age shoppers declare they saw, but was a tall light-skinned Porto Rican boy named Lino Rivera, about 16 years old. The police say he was not beaten, and the boy, although he says he was not hurt, declares that he was not threatened.

"But he insisted," states the New York Journal, March 20, "that if other Negroes in the store though he was being 'shellacked' they were amply justified by the threats hurled at him. Although he admitted he had not been struck, he quoted one of the floor-walkers who caught him as saying:

" 'Let's take him down the cellar and beat hell out of him.' "

So the crowd of Negroes was justified in its anxiety for the safety of the boy. It does not matter, ultimately, so far as the fundamental situation is concerned, whether or not the police substituted Lino Rivera for a smaller boy who was actually severely beaten, in order to cover up their own actions. (However, the identity of the boy is being investigated independently of the police, and more will be said on this point in later articles.)

Mass Anger Grows

The store was closed, and the situation was "quieter." But the crowd of angry people on the street was growing, the story of the incident was spreading. The whole history of Negro discrimination and oppression and misery surged up into the discussion of this needless cruelty on the part of overbearing white store owners who charged high prices to their Negro patrons and refused to engage Negro employees.

Into the Communist Party headquarters, says Louis Sass, organization secretary of the Harlem section of the Communist Party, streamed dozens of Negroes in a white heat of rage. Sass and other workers, Negro and white Communist Party members, tried to quiet their anger, to direct it into the channels of orderly militant group protest and demand.

By six o'clock the Young Liberators organizing a picket line before the Kress store, and began a street meeting. A Negro chairman opened the meeting. The crowd was large, but orderly. The meeting was orderly. The speakers urged unity of black and white workers, in the fight against Negro oppression. They pointed out the discrimination in jobs, in housing, in relief. They referred to Scottsboro. They urged particularly that the workers guard against boss incitement to race riot, which would be the opposite of workers' solidarity in the struggle for Negro rights and for working class rights in general.

White Speaker Arrested

The police had been on the scene in force for two hours. The Negro chairman introduced a young white speaker, Daniel Miller and the crowd, chiefly Negro, applauded. The police attacked, dragging Miller from the speakers' stand and arresting him. They broke up the picket line, arresting the leaders. The crowd, already incensed at the police, and already with a memory of a long record of police violence against Negroes, hissed and protested. Some threw rocks at the police, who were firing in the air. The crowd was in front of the Kress store. Someone smashed a store window. The "riot" was on.

The police undertook to "disperse" the crowd with their usual brutal tactics. By the time they were able to clear the block where most of the crowd was, the Kress store front was well demolished.

No "Race Riot"

The effect of the "dispersal" was that the crowd, retreating along the street, smashed the windows of other shops where it was remembered that discrimination was practiced. They did not attack shops owned by Negroes, or shops on which the owners had put up the signed, "Colored work here." They took a definite political attitude even in destruction. As Dr. A. Clayton Powell said, quoted in the Timees of March 21, the Negroes recalled the "Italian affront to Abyssinia," and wrecked all the Italian grog shops along the way.

It was not a "race riot" against whites, the Hearst press to the contrary, but a spontaneous mass retaliation against the brutally violent police and against the store owners who practice discrimination.

In a few instances where small turbulent groups were suspicious of whites and disposed to attack them, white Communists were pointedly excluded from attack. A white man who was menacingly regarded by one or two was seen to be holding a **Daily Worker**, and others shouted, "Leave him alone, he's a Red." A girl who does work in the Communist Party office, and who was known to several in the crowd, was likewise greeted: "She's all right, shes a Red."

Starving Take Goods

When the shop windows were broken, and wares of all sorts displayed, the starving and penniless Negroes in the crowd seized the opportunity to carry off food, clothes, articles of all sorts. One Negro in a shoe shop was seen trying on a pair of shoes, oblivious of the tumult around him! It was dire need that turned the window-smashing retaliation against the police and the store-keepers into a "looting" campaign.

The aftermath of injuries and shootings — for the police began shooting point blank at persons in the crowd — and the arrests and beatings and fines and jailings, were a logical development of the police tactics of terrorism and the general situation.

Communists Urge Discipline

The first Communist and Young Liberator leaflets appeared about seven o'clock, after the Kress store front had been smashed in and some other stores also attacked. They were widely distributed. But they were not in any sense the "cause" of the riot. In both the leaflets and in their speeches the Young Liberators and the Communists and Young Communists stressed the need for unity of black and white workers and emphatically urged orderly protest, resistance to police provocation, refusal to be forced into a race riot. And, although breakage and looting did take place, the one real restraining influence in Harlem that night was the effective organization work of the Communist Party, together with the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the Young Liberators.

At the same time that the Young Liberators and the Communists were distributing leaflets in Harlem in defense of Negro rights, the Nazis were distributing leaflets in Yorkville attacking the rights of the Jews. The Communist leaflets urged Negroes and whites not to be provoked into attack upon each other. The Nazi leaflet urged attack on Jews. .... If William C. Dodge and William Randolph Hearst are interested in leaflets that incite to violence, let them investigate fascist propaganda in this country.

This series will deal fully with the factual background of Harlem unemployment, job peonage, inadequacy of relief and fire-trap housing; with the complex social and racial composition of Harlem, and the complex ideological factors; and with the Communist organizational and agitational work so fiercely attacked by the police and the Hearst press. The next article will deal specifically with the treatment of the arrested Negroes and whites, and the provocative policy of LaGuardia's police.

New York

Riots – 1935

The Truth About the Harlem Events of March 19

By OAKLEY JOHNSON

ARTICLE I

The newspaper reading public is aware that "disturbances" took place during seven hours of Tuesday afternoon and evening, lasting up until three o'clock of Wednesday morning, March 20. It is known that on that night several thousand people of Harlem—mostly Negroes, congregated on the streets in the vicinity of Kress Department Store, 125th Street near Seventh Avenue; that 500 policemen, along with scores of mounted police and hundreds of plain-clothes detectives, were mobilized to put down the "riot"; that store windows were smashed and supplies destroyed or carried off, the property loss estimated at $350,000.

It is known that police action in "subduing" the "riot" and the other official steps taken have resulted in the following:

Four persons dead thus far, three from shooting, one from "concussion."

Seven others shot, most of them seriously injured.

Forty-seven injured received hospital treatment.

One hundred and thirty-five arrested.

Sixteen or more indicted by a grand jury.

About a dozen already convicted and fined or jailed for looting, "disorderly conduct," "inciting to riot," or shouting aloud because a Negro boy was being beaten.

Officials Make Charges

It is known that Mayor F. H. LaGuardia and District Attorney William C. Dodge have made various charges about "incitement by irresponsible persons," about revolt by Communists and anarchists, and talked about deportation of foreign born and Reds, with the Hearst press leading a lurid and scurrilous attack upon the Communist Party as the responsible cause for the incidents that took place.

It is known that two committees are investigating the affair: one is the Mayor's own committee, the other is a Citizens' Emergency Committee formed by Negro and white residents of New York upon their own initiative.

It is known, finally, that the Harlem Merchants' Association wired Governor Herbert Lehman for military troops to be sent into Harlem; and that Negro Assemblyman James E. Stephens introduced a resolution into the State legislature calling for an investigation of the Harlem trouble.

The varied reports and explanations by the police and prosecutors and by the press are mutually contradictory. District Attorney Dodge, unwillingly immersed in an investigation of vice and gambling rackets, apparently is seizing the opportunity of the "riot" to allow the vice probe to die a quick death and to advance his political fortunes; the Hearst press is obviously carrying out the studied anti-labor, anti-Red, and anti-Soviet policy it has been following for the past months.

The Actual Events

As made clear by the statements of eye-witnesses, the actual incidents are as follows:

About four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, while some 500 shoppers—chiefly Negro women—were in the Kress store, a Negro boy was chased through the store by two store detectives, Stephen Urban and C. J. Hurley, and caught in the rear of the store. He was supposed to have taken something from a counter. The two private dicks, under the order of Jackson Smith, the Southern-born manager of the store (named after Stonewall Jackson, and said to have been given the job because he "knew how to handle Negroes") were not at all gentle with the boy. Hundreds of customers saw the struggle. Negro women heard one of the men tell the boy, "I'm going to take you down to the basement and beat hell out of you."

It was a climatic finish to months of endurance of studied insolence toward Negroes, of other comparable rough action by the white owners of Harlem stores. "The customers in the store were thrown into a fever of excitement," says the New York Times.

Police Clear Store

The boy was dragged into a rear office, out of sight. Women shoppers, indignant, tense, stood waiting, with parcels in their hands, for the boy to be released. Police were called. The police went into the rear office to confer with the manager, then emerged to clear the store.

The shoppers, waiting for the boy to be set free, anxious for his safety, refused to leave. The police became more insolent and rough. Some of the shoppers angrily knocked some goods off of counters onto the floor. Others, incensed at the police and enraged by what had happened, began to shove merchandise on the floor, tip over counters and tables.

The rumor spread. Harlem knows of the scores of unprovoked police beatings of Negroes in recent months. As the police forced out the shoppers and the store was closed, hundreds more gathered in the street. The rumor spread. Was the boy being beaten yet? Where was he? Was he unconscious? Was he alive?

Who Was the Boy?

The police say that the boy was not a small black boy of perhaps 12 years of age shoppers declare they saw, but was a tall light-skinned Porto Rican boy named Lino Rivera, about 16 years old. The police say he was not beaten, and the boy, although he says he was not hurt, declares that he was not threatened.

"But he insisted," states the New York Journal, March 20, "that if other Negroes in the store thought he was being 'shellacked' they were amply justified by the threats hurled at him. Although he admitted he had not been struck, he quoted one of the floor-walkers who caught him as saying:

"'Let's take him down the cellar and beat hell out of him.'"

So the crowd of Negroes was justified in its anxiety for the safety of the boy. It does not matter, ultimately, so far as the fundamental situation is concerned, whether or not the police substituted Lino Rivera for a smaller boy who was actually severely beaten, in order to cover up their own actions. (However, the identity of the boy is being investigated independently of the police, and more will be said on this point in later articles.)

Mass Anger Grows

The store was closed, and the situation was "quieter." But the crowd of angry people on the street was growing, the story of the incident was spreading. The whole history of Negro discrimination and oppression and misery surged up into the discussion of this needless cruelty on the part of over-bearing white store owners who charged high prices to their Negro patrons and refused to engage Negro employees.

Into the Communist Party headquarters, says Louis Sass, organization secretary of the Harlem section of the Communist Party, streamed dozens of Negroes in a white heat of rage. Sass and other workers, Negro and white Communist Party members, tried to quiet their anger, to direct it into the channels of orderly militant group protest and demand.

By six o'clock the Young Liberators organizing a picket line before the Kress store, and began a street meeting. A Negro chairman opened the meeting. The crowd was large, but orderly. The meeting was orderly. The speakers urged unity of black and white workers, in the fight against Negro oppression. They pointed out the discrimination in jobs, in housing, in relief. They referred to Scottsboro. They urged particularly that the workers guard against boss incitement to race riot, which would be the opposite of workers' solidarity in the struggle for Negro rights and for working class rights in general.

White Speaker Arrested

The police had been on the scene in force for two hours. The Negro chairman introduced a young white speaker, Daniel Miller, and the crowd, chiefly Negro, applauded. The police attacked, dragging Miller from the speakers' stand and arresting him. They broke up the picket line, arresting the leaders. The crowd, already incensed at the police, and already with a memory of a long record of police violence against Negroes, hissed and protested. Some threw rocks at the police, who were firing in the air. The crowd was in front of the Kress store. Someone smashed a store window. The "riot" was on.

The police undertook to "disperse" the crowd with their usual brutal tactics. By the time they were able to clear the block where most of the crowd was, the Kress store front was well demolished.

No "Race Riot"

The effect of the "dispersal" was that the crowd, retreating along the street, smashed the windows of other shops where it was remembered that discrimination was practiced. They did not attack shops owned by Negroes, or shops on which the owners had put up the signed, "Colored work here." They took a definite political attitude even in destruction. As Dr. A. Clayton Powell said, quoted in the Timees of March 21, the Negroes recalled the "Italian affront to Abyssinia," and wrecked all the Italian grog shops along the way. It was not a "race riot" against whites, the Hearst press to the contrary, but a spontaneous mass retaliation against the brutally violent police and against the store owners who practice discrimination.

In a few instances where small turbulent groups were suspicious of whites and disposed to attack white Communists were pointedly excluded from attack. A white man who was menacingly regarded by one or two was seen to be holding a **Daily Worker,** and others shouted, "Leave him alone, he's a Red." A girl who does work in the Communist Party office, and who was known to several in the crowd, was likewise greeted: "She's all right, shes a Red."

Starving Take Goods

When the shop windows were broken, and wares of all sorts displayed, the starving and penniless Negroes in the crowd seized the opportunity to carry off food, clothes, articles of all sorts. One Negro in a shoe shop was seen trying on a pair of shoes, oblivious of the tumult around him! It was dire need that turned the window-smashing retaliation against the police and the store-keepers into a "looting" campaign.

The aftermath of injuries and shootings — for the police began shooting point blank at persons in the crowd — and the arrests and beatings and fines and jailings, were a logical development of the police tactics of terrorism and the general situation.

Communists Urge Discipline

The first Communist and Young Liberator leaflets appeared about seven o'clock, after the Kress store front had been smashed in and some other stores also attacked. But they were not in any sense the "cause" of the riot. In both the leaflets and in their speeches the Young Liberators and the Communists and Young Communists stressed the need for unity of black and white workers and emphatically urged orderly protest, resistance to police provocation, refusal to be forced into a race riot. And, although breakage and looting did take place, the one real restraining influence in Harlem that night was the effective organization work of the Communist Party, together with the League of Struggle for Negro Rights and the Young Liberators.

At the same time that the Young Liberators and the Communists were distributing leaflets in Harlem in defense of Negro rights, the Nazis were distributing leaflets in Yorkville attacking the rights of Jews. The Communist leaflets urged Negroes and whites **not** to be provoked into attack upon each other. The Nazi leaflet urged attack on Jews. If William C. Dodge and William Randolph Hearst are interested in leaflets that incite to violence, let them investigate fascist propaganda in this country.

This series will deal fully with the factual background of Harlem unemployment, job peonage, inadequacy of relief and fire-trap housing; with the complex social and racial composition of Harlem, and the complex ideological factors; and with the Communist organizational and agitational work so fiercely attacked by the police and the Hearst press. The next article will deal specifically with the treatment of the arrested Negroes and whites, and the provocative policy of LaGuardia's police.

Newberry, S. C. Observer
April 2, 1935

THREE MOBS.

A few days ago a sixteen year old Porto Rican negro in the negro district of New York City, Harlem, was caught stealing a pocket knife in a ten cent store. When caught, he began frantically to bite. A sales girl fainted. The negro customers took a panic and rushed from the store. The thief escaped.

A gang of "reds," called the Young Liberators, seized the opportunity to stir up trouble, and placarded the negro section, where a quarter of a million blacks have accumulated during the past few years, with signs luridly proclaiming that a child had been beaten nearly to death and a woman had been attacked by the store boss and police.

Negro gangs began to smash windows. General looting followed. A white man was beaten to death. Numbers of police were wounded by bricks and bottles. The police, forced to fire, killed one negro and wounded a number.

New York doubtless understands better than she did before some aspects of the race problem.

In Germany, about the same time, the story was started that the Jews and Free Masons were plotting to assassinate Hitler. Troops went about some towns pasting up flaming posters to the effect that in England bets were being taken that Hitler would be assassinated. The posters grew more and more lurid, even to the point of urging in huge letters, "KILL THE JEWS," "AVENGE OUR LEADER." Mobs surged through the streets shouting "death to Jews," and were evidently soon to begin to spill Hebrew blood when an official, who had tolerated the slanderous posters set up by the troops, announced that it was all a mistake.

It happened that just as we had read this contemporary history we picked up the magnificent life of General Robert E. Lee, which has just been issued in four volumes by Mr D. S. Freeman from the press of Scribners —one of the notable books of modern biography. We happened to light upon the chapter sketching the life of the father of General Lee, "Light-Horse Harry" Lee, the great cavalry leader of the Revolution, whose brilliant and dashing courage did so much to win the war for American independence in South Carolina, where he was General Greene's most trusted lieutenant.

During the War of 1812—a war which Light-Horse Harry Lee opposed—a mob gathered in Baltimore to wreck a second time the office of an editor who had dared to print articles against the war. Rushing to the assistance of his friend, Lee was requested to assume charge of the defense of the place, as his military training qualified him to do. In the riot, one of the mob was killed. The arrival of the militia ended the trouble for the time, and the inmates of the building were placed in jail as the only likely place of safety should the mob rise again. But the militia dispersed too soon. In the night the mob stormed the jail, killed one of the prisoners, and almost killed seven or eight others. Lee was so terribly beaten that he lay as though dead. The mob stuck knives into his body to see if he would move, and poured melted candle tallow into his eyes to see if a wince would reveal any spark of life that still needed to be beaten or shot out of him. A physician by pretending to desire to give the Revolutionary hero a decent burial got his body away and saved his life, though he was for the few remaining years of his life a wreck.

What is the difference between these mobs? Exactly this, nothing more: One was composed of negroes, one was composed of Germans, and one was composed of Southern white men. Each was an aggregation of howling fiends, lower than the beasts. To the members of each of them human life was a mere plaything. All alike were a disgrace to human nature. Each stands as a terrible warning to the hell in society that awaits at any time of excitement to hurl a civilized society back into barbarism.

New Bern, N. C. Sun Journal
April 25, 1935

T 7

Race Riots

The South, looked upon for many years as the seat of race riots despite the fact that they're not any more uncommon in Northern cities, will read with a great deal of interest the report of the New York Urban League which has just completed an investigation of the recent race riots in Harlem.

Says that league, after making a study of the whole affair, the riot was caused by overcrowding and lack of recreational facilities. At least that was the principal reason. That overcrowding and lack of recreational facilities compelled thousands to live under circumstances which set nerves on edge and promoted suller treatment. Only a minor incident was needed to touch off a riot.

The lesson is one promptly applied to every American city of any size at all. Overcrowding and bad housing are pointed to as the most expensive luxuries a city can maintain.

But when an effort is made to explain those occurrences which have happened in some smaller Southern communities as due to overcrowding and lack of recreational facilities, the explanation breaks down. Overcrowding doesn't exist. Organized recreation might help each race independently, but it would have little bearing on the prevention of race riots. There is no possibility of recreation which would bring the two races of the South together without increasing the danger of race riots.

New York.

Riots - 1935

TROOPS TO GUARD HARLEM REQUESTED OF GOVERNOR; MAYOR PLEADS FOR PEACE

RIOT AREA STILL IS TENSE

Times

500 Policemen Patrol Section, but There Is Little Disorder.

3-21-35

SHOP OWNERS FEARFUL

Newspaper

Hold Protection Inadequate and Ask Lehman to Send 'Military Assistance.'

ONE DEATH IN OUTBREAK

Dodge to Investigate Cause of Uprising—Holds Reds Were Active in Trouble.

Crowds of restless Negro residents and thousands of curious white visitors thronged Harlem's sidewalks last night under the sharp watch of more than 500 policemen, but there were no new outbreaks such as kept the district in turmoil all Tuesday night and early yesterday morning.

Of the 100 or more white men and Nefroes who were shot, stabbed, clubbed or stoned during the rioting of Tuesday night, only a handful remained in Harlem hospitals. These, however, were on the critical list. Up to last night there was only one death as a result of the rioting.

While the police seemed certain that they had enough men in the district to put down any new uprising of the hoodlum element that looted stores and broke more than 200 shopwindows during the rioting, the Merchants Association of Harlem telegraphed to Governor Lehman that the police force was inadequate and made a plea for "military assistance."

Mayor Starts Inquiry.

Mayor La Guardia, in an early statement at City Hall, said: "The unfortunate occurrence of last night and early this morning was instigated and artificially stimulated by a few irresponsible individuals," and appointed a committee to begin an investigation into the rioting and into the "causes of the disorder."

He also sent into the Harlem district last night two patrol wagon loans of circulars appealing to the law-abiding element to keep their heads and to assist public officials in getting at the source of the trouble. Patrolmen left thousands of these circulars (large pamphlets printed on white paper) in the Harlem stores for distribution by shopkeepers.

Four men described by the police as ring-leaders of the rioting were held in $2,500 bail each by Magistrate Stanley Renaud in Harlem Court for hearing tomorrow on charges of inciting to riot. They are Daniel Miller, 21 years old, of 35 Morningside Avenue; Samuel Jamesson, 19, 971 East 178th Street; Murray Samuels, 19, 8,621 Twentieth Avenue, Brooklyn; Claudio Vialobo, 39, of 202 West 132d Street. All but Vialobo are white men.

They were represented by a woman lawyer who said she was assigned by the International Labor Defense. She would not give her name to reporters.

The sole fatality in the rioting was James Thompson, 19 years old, a Negro of 202 St. Nicholas Avenue. He died in Harlem Hospital at 9:25 A. M. yesterday after he was shot in the chest by Detective Nicholas Campo of the West 100th Street police station, who said Thompson was one of the men who looted the A and P store at 138th Street and Lenox Avenue early yesterday morning.

Eight on Force Injured.

Four patrolmen and four detectives were on the list of injured, but apparently none of them was in serious condition last night. In most cases they were hit by flying bricks and stones while the race riot was at its height at midnight Tuesday, but were able to go home after receiving treatment.

One hundred and twenty-one prisoners were taken by the policemen during and after the rioting on various charges, chiefly inciting to riot, burglary (looting of stores), disorderly conduct and carrying concealed weapons. In magistrate's court most of them were held for further hearing, but several were sentenced immediately to from five days to six months.

Heavy police guards composed of men on foot, mounted and on motor cycles, surrounded the courts as Negro friends of the prisoners assembled to attend the arraignments. There was considerable grumbling, some shouting of threats, but no violence. Motorcycle convoys accompanied the vanloads of prisoners around the city.

All day long Harlem's sidewalks, stoops and apartment-house windows were alive with resentful Negroes. They moved in restless and endless streams along Lenox and Seventh Avenues and up and down 125th Street, where the trouble started Tuesday afternoon on a false rumor that a Negro boy had been brutally beaten by employes in the Kress 5 and 10-cent store.

Expect No More Outbreaks.

Police officials, however, appeared certain despite the obvious air of tenseness and hostility that prevailed that there would be no further outbreaks. They have enough men on hand, they believe, to put down any new uprising—roving emergency squad cars, patrolmen marching in pairs every few hundred feet and mounted men in groups of two and three at strategic points.

Harlem's Negro leaders seemed divided on the cause for the riot. Some flatly blamed the Communists, others sadi the Communists merely stepped in and took advantage of the rioting after it started. All seemed to agree, however, that the "basic cause is economic maladjustment; segregating and discrimination against Negroes in the matter of employment."

A group of Harlem's Negro leaders and some white men interested in the welfare of the race, at a meeting in the home of the Rev. A. Clayton Powell Jr. at 666 St. Nicholas Avenue, issued a statement to that effect. Dr. Clayton said a mass meeting may be held in Madison Square Garden soon to acquaint New Yorkers with conditions under which Harlem Negroes live.

Statements issued by Communist organizations (some of them inflamed the mobs on Tuesday by issuing pamphlets to the effect that a Negro boy was beaten in the Kress store) tried to fix the whole blame for the trouble on the policemen. They maintained that the police were unjustifiably brutal in keeping down the crowds. Witnesses, however, said the police kept cool, even when they were stoned by enraged hoodlums; that snipers started the shooting.

Lino Rivera, 16 years old, of 272 Manhattan Avenue, a Puerta Rican boy who was ejected from the Kress store at 256 West 125th Street at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon after one of the floorwalkers had seen him take a ten-cent pen-knife from a tray, was a dejected figure at his home last night.

Despite inflammatory communist handbills charging that he had been brutally beaten the boy was unmarked. He was overwhelmed by the fact that his desire for a ten-cent knife had precipitated the riot and resultant bloodshed. His mother, a widow, harangued him in Spanish in the presence of reporters; said she was ill as a result of the incident.

Even after newspapers printed interviews with the boy, quoting him to the effect that he had not been beaten in the store, the rumor persisted in Harlem that a Negro boy had been killed; that the victim was an 11-year-old boy whose "body was taken out of the store as freight."

The police took unusual precautions around the police headquarters area yesterday morning before the patrol wagons started rolling in from the Harlem districts with the prisoners taken in the rioting. Traffic was diverted from the immediate vicinity of the headquarters building and fifteen mounted men patroled the area.

Police Commissioner Valentine insisted, however, that the area was cleared merely to expedite the movement of the van loads of prisoners, not in any sense as a safety measure. Traffic was diverted through Broome and Grand Streets until the last of the vans had departed for the Washington Heights and Harlem Courts.

He was asked how long the extra details of patrolmen from Brooklyn, the Bronx and lower Manhattan would be kept on duty in the trouble centre.

"Until the trouble's over," was his only comment.

Dodge to Investigate.

District Attorney Dodge announced that the grand jury will investigate the riots, and if the evidence was forthcoming would seek indictments on charges of inciting to riot and for assault. He said he was acting at the request of Mayor La Guardia.

"My purpose," he told reporters, "is to let the Communists know that they cannot come into this country and upset our laws. From my information Communists distributed literature and took an active part in the riot."

The rioting started about 4 P. M. on Tuesday, began to spread from the vicinity of the Kress store at 6 P. M. when the first of the Communist handbills appeared, and reached its height by midnight. Roving bands of Negroes, with here and there a sprinkling of white agitators, stoned windows, set fire to several stores and began looting.

By 1:30 A. M. the worst of the rioting was ended, but sporadic outbreaks occurred up to 4 A. M. Flying squadrons of radio cars and emergency cars and motorcycle squads carrying patrolmen armed with riot guns, quickly put down these disturbances and were troubled thereafter only by men sniping from rooftops. They cleared these off, and stationed men on the roofs to prevent further sniping.

Little Disorder Yesterday.

There were no disturbances of any size yesterday, merely one or two trouble calls with which the flying squads had no trouble. One came from the grocery store of Isaac S. Pekin at 371 Lenox Avenue in the the afternoon. Two Negro boys entered his shop and began throwing canned goods about. When he called for police a crowd of 500 men and women assembled around the store, but dispersed when the radio cars appeared.

Last night the district was calm, but still tense. Three emergency trucks rolled down Seventh and Lenox Avenues and down 125th Street at intervals and radio cars and motor cycle cars maintained steady patrol. Four patrolmen had to be stationed at 125th Street and Seventh Avenue to regulate the pedestrian traffic because the influx of curious whites jammed the sidewalks.

The visitors gasped when they saw the shattered store windows along Seventh and Lenox Avenues and along West 125th Street, and as they noticed shops where merchants had boarded their display windows against possible recurrence of the rioting. Last night observers counted twelve glaziers' trucks in the district with workers busy replacing the broken shop fronts.

Negro proprietors had large white-washed signs on their windows announcing that "This shop

is run by COLORED people." Several white store owners took the cut and covered their windows with signs announcing that "This store employs Negro workers."

Failure to Get Work a Factor.

Many representative Negro leaders in Harlem, in discussing the background of the riot and what led up to it said that the question of finding employment for Negro workers in Harlem stores was really the cause of the trouble. The Communists, they maintained, merely stepped in after the trouble started, and took advantage of it.

The Rev. A. Clayton Powell Jr., assistant patsor of the Abyssinian Church told reporters, however, that while the question of employment for Negroes in Harlem Stores was probably the principal cause of the trouble, the Scottsboro case and the Abyssinian trouble were contributing factors.

"The trouble seems to be over for the time being," he said, "but it may break out again in a week, or even in a month unless our people get some assurance of economic adjustment to end the discrimination against them."

Two years ago, Dr. Powell said, Negro churchmen and welfare workers warned Harlem shopkeepers, particularly the owners of chain stores, that they must employ Negro help since they were making their living from Negroes in a Negro community. He pointed out that Harlem's 300,000 Negro population makes it the "fourth largest city in point of population in New York State."

Exploitation Is Charged.

"Continued exploitation of the Negro is at the bottom of all this trouble," he said, "exploitation as regards wages, jobs, working conditions. Think of all the milk used in Harlem, yet not one bottle of it is delivered by Negroes. We send our boys and girls come out of college, well-trained, compelled to go on relief or work as red caps."

He said the Fifth Avenue Coach company had refused to see a Negro delegation that had asked that Negro help be put on busses running through Harlem; that chain stores had refused to employ Negro help. White landlords raising rents only added to the growing resentment, he said. "Rents here are higher by 25 per cent than they are in other parts of the city where similar housing conditions obtain," he declared.

In their anger, in the course of the rioting, Dr. Powell said, the Negroes recalled the "Italian affront to Abyssinia" and wrecked all the Italian grog shops in Harlem. "They smashed every one they could find," he declared.

Dr. Powell said Communists inflamed the rioters with handbills and soap-box speeches, but he insisted that "the number of Communists in Harlem is small." "The Communist vote has been dropping here for the past five years," he declared. "They merely saw their chance last night and stepped in, just as they did in the Scottsboro case and in the Abyssinian trouble. If the riot had been altogether Communist inspired it would not have assumed the racial angle."

Negro Killed In Race Riots By Harlem Mobs

NEW YORK, March 20.—(AP)—Kept on the alert by sporadic outbursts of violence during the day, hundreds of police reinforcements deployed through Harlem tonight as darkness fell with ominous quiet over a riot-torn negro quarters.

One negro was killed, 34 negroes and whites were injured and scores of other persons suffered cuts and bruises when mobs stormed through the settlement last night and early this morning, infuriated by false reports that a negro youth had been beaten to death by white men.

Police authorities, uncertain about what may happen when word spreads that a young negro was fatally wounded during the rioting, drew on three boroughs for extra men and concentrated them in the Harlem area.

The victim of the wild outbreak, which left a toll of shattered windows, wrecked shops and other property damage was Gaines Thompson, 22, who was shot by a detective while allegedly looting a grocery store.

The immediate cause of the outbreak 16-year-old Lino Rivera, disclosed today that he had slept through most of the rioting, not realizing he had precipitated it.

Rivera said he went into a store and was seized while trying to steal a knife. He struggled with two floorwalkers, biting one of them in the hand, as they led him out through the basement.

A crowd of negroes in the store thought he was being beaten to death and set up a cry which led to the outbreak. Rivera went home and went to bed.

HARLEM RIOTERS FIGHT POLICEMEN

Hundreds Take Part in Disorder Started by False Report of Slaying of Child

NEW YORK, March 19. (AP)—New York's Harlem was overrun tonight by crowds of men and women who smashed store windows, assaulted pedestrians, looted stores and forcibly resisted the efforts of 250 patrolmen to disperse the crowds.

Police said more than 2,000, most of them Negroes, were in the crowds that steemed from a store disturbance on West 125th street, near Seventh avenue, earlier in the night. They were excited by false rumors a Negro boy had been beaten to death in a chain store. The boy had reprimanded for stealing candy.

He was released by the store manager after he had bitten two clerks.

Chief Inspector John J. Seery and Deputy Chief Inspector David J. McAuliffe, borough commander, personally were in charge of the force of mounted and foot patrolmen and radio cruiser squads.

At midnight, it appeared that the rioting was spreading, they said.

More than a dozen men and women were under arrest; scores of suspects were being questioned in district police stations; two policemen had been taken to the hospital, one in a serious condition; more than 200 plate glass windows had been smashed, police said.

A dozen victims of rocks, bludgeons, knives and revolvers were treated by ambulance surgeons.

Glass covered the sidewalks.

Most of the arrested persons were Negroes.

HARLEM'S STORES ASK SOLDIER GUARD

Merchants Appeal to Lehman, Warning of Danger of More Disorders in District.

ECONOMIC CAUSE IS SEEN

J. W. Ford, Communist, Asserts Negroes Are Starving—Labor Defense Accuses Police.

A telegram to Governor Lehman from the Harlem Merchants Association, asking that the police be "reinforced by military assistance," and other protests yesterday from Negro, Communist and liberal organizations followed Tuesday's rioting in Harlem.

The merchants' organization, whose president, Morris Tobin, a haberdasher, was a victim of the disorders, asked for the immediate intervention of the Governor to prevent a recurrence of the rioting. During Tuesday's violence Mr. Tobin's store at 101 West 125th Street, known as Toby's, was broken into and merchandise worth several thousand dollars was stolen.

Telegram to Governor.

The telegram to the Governor follows:

"In the face of the unbridled and open outbreak of violence, riot and plunder of Harlem business establishments, we, the business men and taxpayers of Harlem, demand your personal and immediate intervention. The police officials of New York seem to be inadequately equipped to handle the situation existing in our district, and we feel that they must be reinforced by military assistance, which we feel that you in your executive capacity must furnish.

"The outbreak of this violence has been long fomenting, and we have repeatedly brought it to the attention of the local authorities, who have done nothing to cure the irresponsible, racial and religious agitation carried on by well-known leaders of outlaws and hoodlums.

"Last night beastly instincts of mob violence broke loose beyond control, and over 1,000 business establishments suffered the worst ruin known in the annals of our glorious State."

The International Labor Defense charged that the placing of responsibility for the disorders at the door of the Communists was an "attempted whitewash" and demanded the arrest and prosecution of the policemen involved in the shootings.

James W. Ford of the Communist party said the cause for the rioting lay in the starvation conditions and suffering of the Negroes in Harlem. The reported beating of the 16-year-old Negro boy was but an incident for letting loose the bitterness and resentment resulting from these conditions, he declared.

Protest to District Attorney.

The International Labor Defense's protest was made in a telegram sent to District Attorney William C. Dodge. The message follows:

"In the name of 15,000 members and affiliates, de demand an open public hearing of the murder and wounding of Harlem workers by police. We brand the attempt to blame Communists for this affair as an attempt to whitewash the police of their responsibility. We demand the arest and prosecution of police who did the shooting and of the commanding officers responsible. We charge police and authorities with responsibility for the whole affair. We demand the release of all arrested and hold you responsible for the safety of Harlem workers."

Declaring that economic conditions caused the disorders, Mr. Ford in his statement said:

"It is variously estimated that between 55 per cent and 65 per cent of the people in Harlem are unemployed, that the relief given for the unemployed of Harlem is about one-third that given in other sections of the city, while tens of thousands are discriminated against and denied all relief. The relief for a family, for example, in Harlem is $31 per month, lower than for families in other sections of the city."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Harlem Committee on Public Policy, through its executive director, James H. Hubert, also attributed the rioting to economic factors. Mr. Hubert called a meeting of representative Harlemites for tomorrow at 8:30 P. M. in the West 135th Street Y. M. C. A. branch to prevent a recurrence of disorders.

An emergency citizens committee, composed of Negroes and whites, was formed last night in the home of the Rev. Dr. A. Clayton Powell, assistant pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, 138th Street, between Seventh and Lenox Avenues. It also attributed the disturbances to "basic economic maladjustments."

More False Reports Charged.

Solomon Harper, a member of the defense committee of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, denounced the spreading of false rumors in Harlem yesterday by provocators. These agitators, he said, were circulating reports that Lino Rivera, 16-year-old Negro, of 272 Manhattan Avenue, had been substituted for the Negro boy who was involved in the trouble at the West 125th Street store.

The provocators were saying, Mr. Harper said, that the boy had been beaten to death in the store and secretly removed Tuesday night as freight. The trouble-makers were stressing, according to Mr. Harper, the discrepancies in the descriptions of the boy as first reported Tuesday and as reported yesterday. In the confusion following Tuesday's early disorders the boy had been reported first as being 10 years old.

The New York District Communist party and the Young Communist League of the Communist party called upon Negro and white workers not to be "stampeded by the bosses" into a fight. Both organizations exhorted their followers to unite against attempts to incite race riots.

Eugene A. Walsh, president of the Uptown Chamber of Commerce, sent a telegram last night to Mayor La Guardia commending him for his statement attributing the Harlem riots to inflammatory speeches and false statements.

Riots - 1935

New York

The Man in the Street

Average Harlemite Thinks Conditions Precipitated Riots

Very Few Put Blame on Communists for Recent Outbreak

By EDGAR T. ROUZEAU.

OPINIONS among the workers of the community differ as to the origin of the Harlem riot. While many believe that the disturbance may be traced to general unemployment, a few insist that the Communists were responsible. Mayor LaGuardia, seeking the answer, appointed a committee to investigate. Some workers charge the committee is too "high-toned" and not sufficiently conversant with the needs of the people. Others feel that the Mayor should have appointed a laborer or two.

Appointed by the Mayor were five whites and six Harlemites. They are Dr. Charles Roberts, chairman; Oswald Garrison Willard, white liberal publisher; Eunice Hunton Carter, lawyer; Hubert Delany, tax commissioner; Countee Cullen, poet; A. Phillip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Justice Charles E. Toney of the Municipal Court; William Jay Schieffelin, trustee of Tuskegee Institute, and Morris Ernst and Arthur Garfield Hayes, Civil Liberties attorneys.

* * *

BECAUSE the interests of the man-in-the-street are so vitally involved, he has been asked to express his opinion on the subject. The following questions were asked: **"What in your opinion, brought about the Harlem riot?" "Do you feel that the committee appointed by Mayor LaGuardia is sufficiently representative of the people to report on their needs?"**

THE ANSWERS.

D. W. WHITE, barber, 316 West 119th street.—"The rioting must be attributed to the fact that the people are dissatisfied with living conditions generally. The Communists are only responsible for setting off the fuse; the situation already existed. The Mayor could have made happier selections for his investigating committee, and he could have made worse. As it is, it is a pretty good committee. I think the Mayor should have added William H. Davis (general manager of The Amsterdam News) and the Rev. James W. Brown (pastor of the Mother A. M. E. Zion Church) to his committee. They are both familiar with the needs of the people."

Types of Harlemites Who Gave Opinions of Riot.

LEE WILLIAMS, porter, 2394 Seventh avenue.—"The rioting was due to economics. The colored man is not receiving his fair share of the breaks. If he spends his money with white merchants in 125th street, it is no more than fair that he should be given a proportion of the jobs. As far as the Mayor's investigating committee goes, you have got to have it well mixed up to get a cross-section of opinion. You need to have some sound thinking white men and some sound thinking Negroes of the type the Mayor has appointed."

JOHN SIMMONS, chauffeur, 34 Edgecombe avenue.—"The sufferings of the colored man was the thing that was behind that riot. Negroes are being discriminated against more than ever. They get less relief than any other group in the city. Those who manage to get it must wade through a lot of red tape and they are tired of that sort of thing. The Communists merely discovered this weak spot and played upon it. Before selecting his investigating committee, the Mayor should have come up to Harlem.

"He would then have had an opportunity to pick a committee of intelligent unemployed men and women. We have got plenty of them here. What can the Mayor learn about the condition of unemployed Negroes from a bunch of $1,000 a month committeemen."

* * *

ARTHUR A. MADISON, lawyer, care of Father Divine's Peace Mission, 20 West 115th street.—"The so-called riot is just something that happened. I don't think there was any purpose or intention to it. Once it got started it took on the form of a New Year's celebration, with the participants laughing and joking. There were few signs of violence, un-

less you want to give that label to the smashing of a few plate glass windows. There were people taking part in that disturbance who didn't know what it was all about. The Mayor's committee would be a better one with one or two unemployed persons on it."

STANLEY FERRIS, building superintendent and executive member of the New York County Colored Democratic Association. Lives at 159 Edgecombe avenue.—"I think the rioting was mostly due to Communistic agitation and to the failure of the Roosevelt administration to provide the Negroes with adequate patronage. I don't approve of the Mayor's investigating committee because the majority of its members do not associate with the masses and are not familiar with the needs of the man in the street."

R. A. LEE, superintendent, 666 St. Nicholas avenue.—"Unemployment was the real reason for that riot. Even those of us who are on relief would like to be given a regular job, which would enable us to have money to spend at will and not have it doled out at the pleasure of some autocrat sitting in a relief station. I think Mayor LaGuardia should have had at least one or two unemployed men on his investigating committee, for unemployed people have felt the pressure of the depression much more keenly than those who have a job."

* * *

HENRY WASHINGTON, waiter, 180 St. Nicholas avenue.—"I have lived in New York off and on for fully fifty years, and to my way of thinking discrimination was the real cause of last week's trouble. The Communists were the prime instigators, and it is plausible to assume that there were quite a few of them in the vicinity of Kress' store when the rumor leaked out that a boy had been beaten up.

"It takes white people to fan a rumor like that into a riot, and to act upon the opportunity as soon as they see it. The average Negro doesn't think fast enough. The Mayor's committee, appointed to investigate the situation, is all right as far as I am concerned. All they have to do is tell the truth."

Feels That Workers Should Be Put on Probing Group

HAROLD GLASGOW, painter, 249 West 112th street.—"I believe there was quite a bit of radicalism behind the rioting. It was clearly an instance of a group of emotional people being led astray by alien instigators. The individuals appointed to the Mayor's investigating committee are in no position to judge the condition of the man in the street, for they are not hard up themselves."

* * *

BLANCHE BISHOP, manicurist, 153 West 139th street.—"The rioting was probably due to the fact that so many of our people are unemployed, and so many others have found it impossible to obtain adequate relief. People who are broke can easily be excited into staging a riot. Those whom the Mayor named to his investigating committee are persons who don't have to worry about their rent and where their next meal is coming from. He should have appointed a few who are up against it and are lacking in the things that they would like to have."

LILLIAN SIFFLET, hairdresser, 379 West 127th street.—"I really believe that depressing living conditions were more responsible for the rioting than anything else. When people are busy working, they haven't the time or the inclination to create trouble. Those who were named to the Mayor's investigating committee don't always come in contact with the people who are really in need. I think he should have appointed at least one who was unemployed."

ROBERT BARRY, window washer, 3 East 134th street.—I think the Communists were responsible for that riot. They reminded the people of the opposition encountered in attempting to secure jobs in 125th street. The few stores in the area that took on colored help, fired them at the first opportunity. Mayor LaGuardia's selections for his investigating committee are not bad, but he should have mixed them up with a few persons of the laboring class."

* * *

CLARENCE JONES, musician, 80 Edgecombe avenue.—"I think the rioting may be attributed to the inability of the people to obtain relief and to the general lack of employment. It was a situation made to order for the Communists. The Mayor's committee is made up of persons of high integrity, but they lack a general knowledge of the living conditions of the masses."

RICHARD M. PRYSORK, superintendent, 315 West 141st street.—"Injustice was the real cause of the riot. A clerk in a department store beat up a boy, but he had no business doing it. He had every recourse in the law. Things like that make the people see red. There is no question but that the Mayor should have had an unemployed person on his committee. Me for instance. I have been out of work for four years. I could have given the Mayor quite an insight into the deplorable condition of the people and the dispensation of relief.

Extra Police Still On Duty; Many Sentenced To Workhouse Terms

3-30-35

Youth At First Reported Killed Awaits Fate In Adolescent Court

With four known dead and several more in a serious condition in city hospitals, the rioting of last Tuesday still stood as the chief topic of conversation throughout Harlem that was gradually returning to its usual routine this week. Extra police guards, on steady duty since the first disturbance, have been maintained by authorities as an insurance against further outbreaks although it was officially announced that the situation was well under control.

The known dead are James Thompson, shot by police while he is said to have been looting a store; Andrew Lyons, 37, who died in Harlem Hospital of injuries sustained during the fracas; August Miller, white, 56, of 1674 McCombs Road who died of a fractured skull sustained Tuesday night, and Edward Laurie, 32,, of 230 West 144th street, who died as the result of a fractured skull sustained in an altercation with a policeman early Saturday morning. According to witnesses, Laurie, who was said to have been intoxicated, entered a restaurant at 511 Lenox avenue and created a disturbance. Patrolman Abraham Zakutinsky, responding to the call, attempted to place Laurie under arrest whereupon Laurie struck the policeman in the face. Zakutinsky, in protecting himself from further assault, pushed the belligerent man away, causing him to fall to the pavement and fracture his skull. He died shortly after in Harlem Hospital.

3 More Dying

Clinging tenaciously to the spark of life, two men, reported dead several times since Tuesday night, were reported still in a serious condition in the hospital. Lyman Quarterman, shot in the abdomen during the melee, was in Bellevue and Charles Alston, who fell from a roof during the struggle was reported still alive at Harlem Hospital. A third victim in a dangerous condition was Lloyd Hobbs 16, of 321 St. Nicholas avenue who, it is alleged was shot down at 128th street and 7th avenue Tuesday night.

According to Hobbs's father, who is filing a complaint against Patrolman John F. Inerney of the 28th precinct, who he accuses of firing the shot, Lloyd and his 15 year old brother, Russell, were on their way home from the theatre when accosted by the policeman. When the youths failed to obey the officer's command to stop, it is alleged, he fired at them mortally wounding the lad. He was removed to Harlem Hospital.

The headquarters of the Young Liberators League at Lenox Avenue and 126th street were padlocked by police, it was revealed. These officers are believed to be the source of the inflaming literature which is blamed for the original outburst. Uptown courts were crowded with cases of arrests made in connection with the rioting.

Communists Discharged

Arraigned in Harlem Court before Magistrate Ford on charges of starting the riot, Daniel Miller 21, 35 Morningside avenue; Samuel Jamison, 19, 971 East 178th street; Murray Samuels, 19, 8621 20th avenue, Brooklyn and Claudio Viabolo, 39, of West 132nd street, were discharged, Monday afternoon. They were immediately taken in custody by detectives from the District Attorney's office and it was announced that indictments charging anarchy would be sought against them.

These men are said to have mounted a platform in front of the Kress store and inflamed the crowd to storm the store by shouting that the boy had been killed and that his body was in the store. They are also said to have distributed placards bearing the statement that "Kress is resorting to lynching".

Lino Rivera, 16 year old Puerto Rican boy believed to have been the cause of the whole affair, was remanded to the custody of Patrolman Alfred Eldridge of the Crime Prevention Bureau when he appeared before the Grand Jury to testify last week. Rivera is also waiting sentence on a charge of putting a slug in a subway turnstile on March 13 for which he faced trial last Saturday in Brooklyn Adolescent Court.

Margaret Mitchell, 18, of 283 W 50th street, whose cries are said to have precipitated the first outbreak, was given a choice of paying a fine of $10 or three days in the workhouse when arraigned before Magistrate Renaud in Harlem Court, Saturday. She paid the fine. In passing sentence Magistrate Renaud declared that he did not believe that the girl had acted maliciously.

At the same time, he sentenced four men to the workhouse for breaking windows during the rioting. The men, who gave their names as James Bright, 28, 14 West 133rd street; Arthur Bennett, 28, 40 West 119th street; John Hawkins, 30, 2357 Seventh avenue and Leo Smith, white, 18, 305 East 118th street, received 30 days each in the workhouse. Rivers Wright, 21, 2137 Seventh avenue was sentenced to ten days in the workhouse.

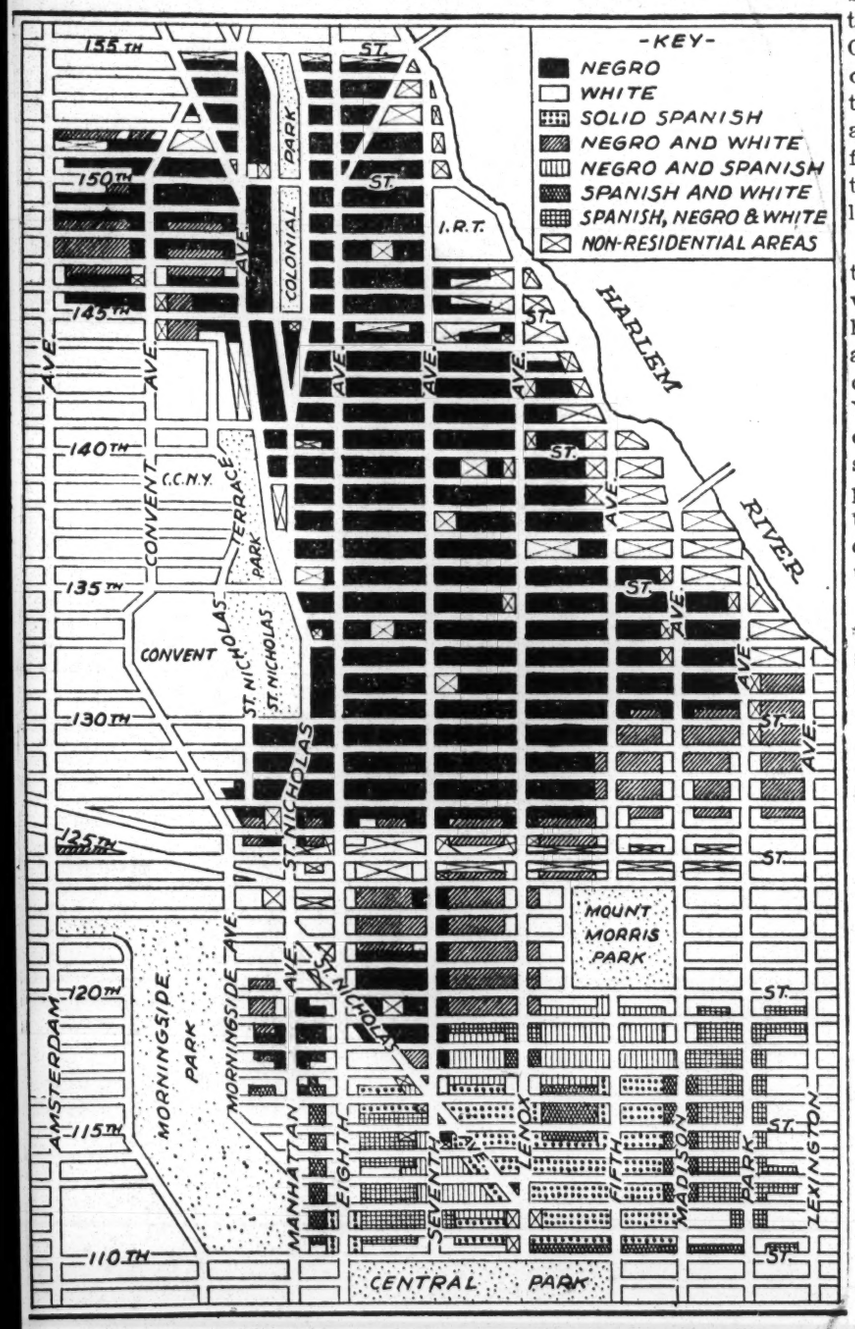
Sent To Workhouse

Others found guilty and sentenced to the Workhouse said they were: Charles Jones, 26, 108 West 134th street; Vernon Daniels, 38, 102 West 143rd street; Joseph Fernandez, 23, 15 West 118th street; Frank Hall, 46, 28 West 132nd street; Porter O'Neill, 24, 34 West 135th street; Roosevelt Drayton, 21, 10 West 134th street; James Simmons, 33, 170 West 129th street; Albert Brown, 20, 149 West 133rd street; James Lloyd, 23, 7 Ludlow street; Charles DeSoto, 27, 170 East 129th street; Salathil Smith, 47, 246 West 121st street; Walter Jones, 29, 152 West 121st street; Julius Hightower, 18, 204 West 148th street; Robert Porter 42, 221 West 141st street; Jack Berry, 33, 142 West 133rd street; Homes Thomas, 21, 330 West 123rd street Robert Banks, 25, 205 West 112th street; James Smith, 48, 112 West 136th street and Richard Jackson, 22, 102 West 119th street.

New York

Riots-1935

CONGESTED HARLEM



Showing the distribution and nationality of its population.

HARLEM RIOT ATTRIBUTED TO MANY ECONOMIC ILLS

People of New York's Packed Community Have Suffered Much From Unemployment and Other Results of the Depression

By ROSE C. FELD.

Harlem has been conspicuous in the news—a serious race riot started by the theft of a pen-knife one day; the funeral of "de Lawd" of "The Green Pastures," another; the charges against Father Divine, a third, and the District Attorney's attack on the policy racket, a fourth. In a measure these items tell the story of Harlem, its problems and its characteristics.

Times 3-24-35 New York

Today Harlem presents the spectacle of a self-contained city living within a city. New York State houses within its borders about half a million Negroes. According to the census of 1930, the City of New York, with its five boroughs, took care of 327,706, with Manhattan standing at the top with a colored population of 224,670. Since then the numbers have increased and today the population of Harlem is figured roughly at 300,000.

Before 1910 New York was one of the two cities (Philadelphia being the other) which had a Negro population more than 50,000. Most responsible for this increase was the war with its call to industrial service. In the past twenty-five years the boundaries of Harlem have gradually reached out from a small, confined nucleus of a few blocks to a territory that takes in a whole section of the city, bounded on the south by 110th Street, on the north by 155th Street, on the east by the Harlem River and the west by Amsterdam Avenue.

A Diversified Population.

Within this territory, covering almost a thousand acres, live a people as diversified in their social, economic, political and religious aspects as any cosmopolitan centre in the world. The only thing that binds them and makes them one is race, but implicit in that bond are scores of differences. Harlem is American the way New York is American, a melting pot made up of Spaniards, Puerto Ricans, South Americans, West Indians, Mexicans, Africans and Abyssinians. In its lower section alone—in the quarter centring around 116th Street and Fifth Avenue—there is a Spanish-speaking group with a population of more than 150,000.

To the outsider they present a homogeneous body, standing as a unit. To the insider, they separate into distinct individual groups, with individual differences, antagonisms, loyalties and prejudices. The American Negro, meaning thereby the man whose roots are part of the American soil, has small use for the West Indian and the latter, with equal pride of background, maintains a social life that excludes an outlander of different heritage.

A Residential City.

Harlem, in a manner of speaking, is a residential rather than a commercial or industrial city, self-maintained in its social aspects but reaching out into every section of New York in its economic life. Ninety-five per cent of Harlem's working population travels to its job. Every morning sees an exodus of workers filling subways, surface cars and elevated trains and every evening sees them returning to their homes. There is practically no occupation or vocation in which the Negro is unrepresented, with the majority, however, filling jobs in the lower-income brackets.

Vocationally and economically the Negro has always been handicapped. Outside of jobs that are part of the municipal or Federal service, like school teaching and postoffice work, the white-collar vocations in the world of white men are closed to him. Equally difficult is it for him to break into the world of skilled trades, where organized labor still bars him from membership. In spite of the fact that the census showed the Negro employed in 316 out of 320 occupations listed, the fact remains that only a very small minority are found in the administrative posts of commerce and industry.

Depression Hits It First.

Harlem's women work in needle-trade factories and in homes as domestic servants and Harlem's men fare forth every morning as waiters, cooks, porters, doormen, cleaners, handy men, elevator runners, house attendants and longshoremen. In days of prosperity they have little difficulty getting jobs and Harlem presents a community of active, busy, happy people. Any change for the worse, however, in the economic barometer, hits Harlem first. With continued unemployment staring him in the face, the white worker is glad to get a job which in better days he spurned and the colored worker must make room for him.

In no small degree is this situation responsible for the riot that took place last week. Unrest and rebellion have been in the air in Harlem for a long time, directed not so much against factors and conditions outside the community as those within Harlem itself. Many white merchants, among them managers of branches of national chain organizations located in the district, have consistently refused to employ colored workers and Harlem, brought to a high pitch of desperation, has become articulate on the subject of employment of colored workers for colored trade. "Harlem for Harlemites" has become a slogan built out of the economic needs of the community.

Some of the neighborhood stores in response to argument strengthened by boycotting and picketing of shops, have responded to the feeling and have made a change in personnel, but many of them have refused to release their white employes. On this question, as on all questions, there is a difference of opinion in Harlem. Much as they wish to see their people employed, many of Harlem's leaders see danger in putting up racial barriers against white labor which might be used as a boomerang against them.

The Housing Problem.

Tied up with its economic problem is Harlem's housing problem. Harlem has its fine residential sections and Harlem has its slums, but in each division Harlem's residents pay more for their housing than do those of any other section of the city. Primarily it is a matter of the demand being greater than the supply, with exploitation following as a natural economic phenomenon. The invasion of the colored population came swiftly and found Negro Harlem unprepared to take care of the housing needs of its race. In order to get rooms of any sort, newcomers were forced to compete not only against their own people but against white tenants, with the result that landlords, colored as well as white, raised their rents all out of proportion to land values.

According to a housing study made of the Negro in Harlem, he pays from one-third to one-half of his income for rent. More than half of Harlem's population live in apartments that cost between $40 and $100 a month. In other sections of the city similar apartments bring from $30 to $50 a month. "Bunching up," as it is

called, is the inevitable result and several families are forced to live together. Fine old dwellings in the upper part of the city that a generation ago housed some of New York's best families today stand as ramshackle, poorly cared for, rundown rooming houses, tenanted by individuals and families who can afford nothing better. Among these derelict dwellings is a row of houses built by Stanford White in the days of his highest achievement.

Homes of the Aristocracy.

Cheek by jowl with Harlem's slums lie Harlem's expensive apartments, its modern cooperatives and its luxurious private residences. Here is where Harlem's aristocracy lives, its prosperous merchants, its bankers, its professional men and women, its entertainers. The rents and upkeep are high, comparable to Park Avenue figures, but people like Harry Wills, Bill Robinson and Ethel Waters can afford to pay them. Sugar Hill, now dubbed Depression Hill by Harlem's humorists, located on and near Edgecombe Avenue, is one of the smartest residential spots in Harlem, and it is no unusual thing to see a string of high-priced cars parked in front of impressive edifices.

Poor Harlem does not resent them. Rather is it proud of the achievements of its successful men and women.

Religion and Politics.

Judged as a unit, religion, perhaps, plays the greatest part in the life of the community. Vast sums of money are sunk into churches. Denominations vary with groups and with families. Last week Richard Harrison, "de Lawd," had an enormously impressive funeral at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and last week also, Father Divine, whose children chant "He is God," carried on his services in his colony.

Politically, Harlem is as divided as it is in its social and economic aspects. No more is the Negro synonymous with Republican. Harlem pays its political allegiance to Lincoln, to be sure, but Harlem also has its Democrats, its Socialists and its Communists. The last group, under the pressure of Harlem's need in this depression, is finding many adherents and soap-box speakers, many of them from Union Square, can collect an interested audience with little trouble. Upon them the more conservative residents of Harlem are placing the blame for the clash of race feeling witnessed this week. But behind them, they add, lies the deeper problem of racial strains in the life of the city.

Harlem

The nation's largest Negro Settlement has hit the Front Page in a surprising and unexpected manner.

Harlem, happy hunting ground of pleasure seekers, Home of Syncopation and Jazz steps out of character to present an economic problem, a study of the Great Depression of Misery and unemployment in its most extreme phases.

Race riots are nothing new, in Harlem and other centers of mixed population; always after a few more or less good humored clashes with friendly cops the crowds subside and go off to night clubs and chop suey joints to cool off and "talk it over." The recent outbreak in Harlem is altogether different. Starting from a rumor that a Negro youth had been beaten up by shopkeepers, men, women and children ran amuck, rioting—breaking windows, destroying stores and creating the most violent upheaval New York police have encountered and which the scant 900 officers assigned to that territory were unable to restrain.

Many causes were set out: interference by the police with Father Divine and his free dinner handouts—resentment against Italians' account of the Italy-Abyssinia mix-up; and many give as the main cause, Communist propaganda and teachings, all these contributed to a most regrettable civic disturbance. The resultant picture drawn from revealed facts as to Harlem Relief and unemployment is sickeningly drab. In an all too congested area of 250,000 (think of it: one-half the population of all Washington!) only 2,500 are employed!—to meet the high rents the people have "doubled up" in many cases 6 families huddled in a five-room apartment. Do we need seek other reason for that uprising? Can any wonder that, faced with cold—hunger and lack of adequate shelter, men throw off the feeble restraints of organized society and revert swiftly to type?

In Harlem as elsewhere without reference to race, class or color, men go about the streets and ponder the question—Is life worth while? Is this boasted civilization of ours about to break down?

Not only in our own land but over all the world this problem presses for solution—wars and rumors of wars—kingdoms falling—dictators springing up on every hand—What next? Sometimes seems we need not despair. This old world will once more right itself-National Recovery will surely come again. Our country's 10,000,000 unemployed will go back to the mines, factories and fields. Happy days will be here again and once more there will be sweet music and happiness "Underneath the Harlem Moon!"

A Heaven Gets A Taste of Hell

SEVERAL years ago CARL VAN VECHTEN brought New York City's Harlem into international prominence through a widely circulated book, the title of which he called "Nigger Heaven." The colored city within a city then had a population around 200,000. The number has now grown to 300,000, according to late estimates. The euphuistic title which MR. VAN VECHTEN gave his assessment of Harlem is thought to have been derived from his idea of ease and contentment which attended the lives of the Harlemites. There was social and economic sufficiency, and a constant outflow of artistic expression, reflecting the best that was characteristic of the race in music and literature.

The other day there was a riot in Harlem, resulting in the destruction of property said to approximate $500,000 in value, the loss of three lives and the wounding of many. It was a race riot, and for a day "Nigger Heaven" was converted into a veritable hell. It was a new kind of race riot, with black people as the aggressors and white people as the victims. So great was the fury of the rioters that it required 500 police officers to quell them, and numerous members of the race had to put signs on their homes reading "Colored" in order to escape the wrath of the mob.

New York is now busy examining into the causes of the riot, which started when a 17-year-old boy was detained and roughly handled for pilfering a cheap pocketknife from one of the many stores in the area conducted by white merchants. Officials are inclined to blame the trouble upon Communists. ROSE C. FIELD, writing in the *New York Times*, thinks the trouble resulted from pent-up unrest and resentment over economic repression. We quote from her carefully considered, impartial analysis of the situation:

"Unrest and rebellion have been in the air in Harlem for a long time, directed not so much against factors and conditions outside the community as those within Harlem itself. Many white merchants, among them managers of branches of national chain organizations located in the district, have consistently refused to employ colored workers and Harlem, brought to a high pitch of desperation, has become articulate on the subject of employment of colored workers for colored trade. 'Harlem for Harlemites' has become a slogan built out of the economic needs of the community."

Mayor LAGUARDIA has appointed a commission, colored and white in personnel, to study the causes and place responsibility for the riot. Whatever these causes are the public may rest assured that the mayor's commission will find them, and that something will be done to ameliorate, if not remove them. There is small chance of social and economic problems so vast as those which envelope Harlem being solved or removed in their entirety. But it is always possible to do something about them to prevent a recurrence of violence.

The hell blast in Harlem has at least proved one thing. People will not indefinitely submit to exploitation and economic repression. The same situation that obtains in Harlem in that respect, obtains to an even larger degree in Norfolk, Richmond, Nashville, Atlanta and other southern cities, as well as in all of the important northern centers. The findings of the New York commission will provide an interesting and valuable basis for study of this problem by other sections of the country.

THE HARLEM RIOT

New York's Harlem has given us another demonstration of what results from a peculiar economic aspect which all large cities, especially those sections in which we chiefly reside are victims of. The public press charge the riot to the striking of a small Filipino boy by a white merchant. The merchant said that the boy had stolen a pocketknife. Somebody ran to the street and said that the boy had been killed in the store.

After this wild and untrue information, then all was confusion, several killed and hundreds injured. As a matter of fact that wasn't the cause of the riot. The cause of the riot was and is the condition of economic indifference with which Harlem is treated by those who control the economic life of Harlem.

The responsibility for this treatment rests in particular upon Harlem's black leadership and what is true in Harlem is true in Chicago. It is universally true in other large cities of the country. We haven't the courage and manhood to properly contend for the things we are justly entitled to. We haven't the foresight as a race to discern the things we are not getting. We accept the shadow for the substance and make ourselves contented. What Harlem is suffering from is no less a menace than in the thickly populated Southside of Chicago in which thousands of us dwell. The principal streets for an area of forty blocks where we live are filled with stores which we support but are owned and operated by white men, who do not even employ members of our race, and a very limited few of them find it necessary to advertise their wares in our newspapers.

Yet we, as a group of people, support their establishments and educate their children in addition to maintaining for them a residence outside of our district. If we could think right, if we could discern our own economic advantages, these conditions could not exist in our communities. Yet it must be borne in mind that rioting and destruction of property are not the answer or the remedy to be applied. We must do some right thinking, backed up by right acting and this can be accomplished through the inauguration of a racial program definitely carried out and embracing those principles which will improve our social and economic advantages in the various communities in which we live.

Riots - 1935

New York

Leaders Comment On Riot

Rev. JOHN H. JOHNSON
Rector, St. Martin's Church

"All good citizens deplore the violence, the vandalism, the looting that took place. Many innocent people have suffered and for that we are all sorry.

There is nothing to support the claim that a race riot took place. What happened was not a race riot. There was no clash between the two races.

"Another claim has been made that the communists were back of the whole thing. Reds, radicals and rowdies were only the foam on the top of the boiling waters. To make the Communists the scapegoats for the riot is only to raise a smokescreen calculated to hide the fundamental causes of the outbreak.

"What happened actually was an economic revolt. A revolt against the prejudice, exploitation, the unfair practice of many of the stores on 125th street. The merchants on 125th street have been approached; pleas on behalf of a policy of fair treatment for residents in this section have been made; warnings have been made; every effort of moral suasion has been used. Some have received the suggestions made and been honorable about them. Some have PRETENDED TO ACCEPT THE SUGGESTIONS MADE, but have lied and cheated, throwing out their Negro help as soon as attention was off them. Many others have been definitely opposed and have not hesitated to say so. A notoriously reactionary factor in the whole situation has been the Uptown Chamber of Commerce.

"The manager of the Kress Store where the disturbance began remarked to a well known communicant of this church last August, that he was from Georgia and would never employ Negroes in his store.

"What happened here last Tuesday was the explosion of a suppressed people who have been exploited by the business interests of this community. A policy of take all and give nothing is intolerable.

"I solemnly and earnestly ask my congregation to stay out of those stores in Harlem in which colored people are not employed."

MORRIS WEINSTEIN
Koch's Department Store

"One of the finest tributes that could be paid Koch's was the action of the mob on last Tuesday night. Our store was unmolested. Since we reopened last May we have consistently striven to give not only jobs but positions as well to colored men and women. The results have justified our endeavors. Our sales have held up well and we are anticipating the greatest spring season in years."

Father WM. R. McCANN
St. Charles Borromeo R. C. Church

"Most of our staff has lived in Harlem for nearly twelve years. And our staff has lived in Harlem for nearly twelve years. And we think that it is no different than living in any other section of the city. Yes, it is different because of the genial atmosphere that is Harlem, and we dare say there is more genuine respect for the priest of God in the street than there is anywhere else in the city. We have never seen a more home-loving people. We have never seen a more peace-loving people, and their main purpose in life seems to be to live happily in the love of God.

"But, we have noticed other things too. We have noticed that our people were the first to feel the depression, and it looks as if they will be the last to recover from it. The ones who enjoy employment are the fortunate ones. And they are the first ones to share their mite with the less fortunate. And with this small income, they must live. They must pay high rents, eat and be clothed. A spirit of resentment is easily born in this environment.

"Then came the communists to do their diabolical work. They are the cause of the riot, if the authorities are sincerely looking for a cause.

"The people of Harlem should be proud of the restraint they showed. Three thousand rioted out of a population of three hundred thousand. That is just one per-cent. We wonder if other sections of the city so distinctly racial could boast of the same restraint under the same conditions."

Rev. WILLIAM LLOYD IMES
St. James Presbyterian Church

"We ask that the merchants of the 125th street and vicinity, disavow and condemn the resentment and suspicion with which many of them have viewed the Negro's rightful demand for consideration in the business life of his community where he lives and spends his all-too-meager earnings.

"Finally, we demand and expect that in spite of the regrettable rioting of this affair (and perhaps grimly enough, too, because of it, that there will be a little more willingness of the mercantile interests of 125th street and vicinity, in respect of fair play, and absolute honesty in dealing with the Negro. Such bodies as the 125th street Chamber of Commerce have issued veiled statements that have traduced and misrepresented the Negro's more thoughtful opinion. Because some Negroes take the way of violence and reprisal of all Negroes. They knew better. They would not deal with thoughtful and sober-minded Negroes who offered them the hand of cooperation in the summer and fall of 1934. Now they fall afoul of the long-pent-up passions of the mob. We believe they are reaping the harvest they have sown."

Rev. WILLIAM P. HAYES
Newark, N. J.

"Those of us who are familiar with conditions in Harlem have wondered at the patience and self-restraint exhibited by its three hundred thousand Negroes. No section of New York City has been so ruthlessly exploited by brazen and unscrupulous merchants. There is more unemployment in Harlem than anywhere else in the City, and those who are fortunate enough to have jobs receive smaller wages or salaries than persons of other groups doing similar work. It has even been asserted that residents in the Harlem area receive less relief than families living elsewhere in the City. These deplorable conditions have naturally bred widespread discontent and unrest. The explosion occurred the other night and its repercussions were not local but nationwide.

"No one who has the welfare of Harlem at heart can condone the outbreak of violence which occurred on its spacious streets and avenues last week. It matters not what the provocation might be, Negroes who are the chief victims of mob violence, cannot themselves afford to employ the weapon of violence in an effort to settle their grievances. This method of attack is both foolish and futile. It defeats itself. Negroes are Americans, and as such should meet and solve their many problems."

Rev. GEORGE H. SIMS
Pastor, Union Baptist Church

"Some rumors have been circulated that my daughter, Mrs. Edith Pinn, was in the store at the time of the trouble. This is not true. She started into the store. When she heard the excitement, she left.

"I have been in this city for forty-seven years; thirty-six of which I have been pastor of Union Baptist Church. Our church was formerly located in West 63rd street, where race riots and mob violence were frequent. At that time, there was much bitter feelings among the races.

"The recent riot, however, was different. This is one of the largest Negro communities in the country. A splendid friendly relationship exists among the races. Here we work together and socialize together. During the past two or three years, however, the economic condition of our people has been such that it has depressed and demoralized the majority. Negroes are the first to be discharged from work. They are also the last to be hired. The Welfare Department in its distribution of home relief has not been fair with the people in Harlem. This and the need of employment were contributing factors to the riot. The apartments are over crowded due to high rentals and the people are hungry. Not only this but agitation by radical organizations contributed largely to the excitement."

INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE

"The International Labor Defense brands this murderous attack upon the Negro and white workers in Harlem as part of the city-wide campaign of terror against the employed and unemployed workers as expressed at the Home Relief Bureaus in the Bronx, Williamsburg, Brownsville, etc. and upon the attack of the strikers of the Ohrbach Company. We pledge to mobilize all white and Negro workers against this attack and will not cease our activities against police terror until all such terror stops."

COLONEL CHAS. YOUNG POST AMERICAN LEGION

"We, the Colonel Charles Young Post, No. 398, of the American Legion, in meeting assembled, do most heartily deplore the lawlessness and breach of peace evidenced by a group of irresponsible, thoughtless and misguided individuals residing in this community and we pledge ourselves to exercise every instrument at our command to bring about that peace, tranquility and harmony so necessary for the promotion of good citizenship."

Dr. Charles H. Roberts Named Head of City's Investigating Group

Ministers' Alliance Asks Appointment of Clergy To Inquiry Board

While extra policemen still patrolled an apparently unperturbed community which buzzed over the happenings of the last week, and wondered just what might happen next, various inquiries to determine the cause and fix the responsibility for the rioting of last Tuesday night got under way Monday. The Grand Jury investigation, having already indicted 16 alleged participants, was resumed and several more indictments are expected. District Attorney Dodge announced that he hopes to develop evidence that the rioting was directly caused by the activities of Communists and other radical groups.

Enveloping their activities in an obscuring cloud of secrecy that evoked considerable comment, the Committee of Eleven appointed by Mayor LaGuardia to conduct an impartial investigation into the whole affair, held their first meeting at the Twelfth District Municipal Court, 447 West 151st street which it is planned will be their headquarters, Monday also. Although it was indicated that the election of officers and the drawing up of a program was the order of the day, just what, if anything was accomplished could not be ascertained since the press was barred from the meeting.

An addition to the committee was believed imminent when Mayor LaGuardia made a flying trip to the meeting of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance at Salem M. E. Church, Monday afternoon and, after pleading for their support in this emergency, promised to appoint one of their body to the committee if a name would be sent to him immediately. The name of Dr. John Wallace Robinson, president of the Alliance, was

chosen by the body immediately after the Mayor's departure and forwarded to the City Hall. Dr. I. W. Brown, prominent Harlem minister was named as alternate.

The move was made following considerable criticism which was levelled at the Mayor after the original members of the committee had been announced. The eleven persons first named were Commissioner Hubert Delany, Countee Cullen, Eunice Hunton Carter, Dr. Charles Roberts, A. Philip Randolph, Judge Charles E. Toney, all colored, and five whites.

Clergy Slighted

Great surprise was expressed generally when these names were first announced, in many quarters observers declaring that there were a number of other prominent individuals who might have served to better advantage on the committee. The absence of the name of even one minister on the whole body was considered by many as a slight to the colored clergy and an oversight on the part of the authorities. This was believed to be the reason for the Mayor's visit to the meeting of the Alliance.

Semi-confirmation of this was afforded by La Guardia himself when he appeared at the meeting Asking that the clergy of Harlem give him their support in this emergency, he stated that the appointments had been made "by advice" and emphatically asserted that he had meant no slight to the Harlem ministers. As a matter of fact, he added, he had not really overlooked them but feeling that too large a committee might prove unwieldy and defeat the very purpose for which it was appointed, and decided that he would ask for their cooperation as a whole, since to appoint a minister from one denomination might result in dissatisfaction on the part of all the others.

He agreed, however, when it was pointed out by several of the pastors present, that the influence of the Harlem ministers among the people of the community reached further than that of any other leader of official and offered the body the opportunity to name one of their number who they felt most capable. If this name were sent to him immediately, he said, he would appoint the man to the committee. A second additional appointment chosen from a denomination not included in the Alliance, would also be named, he added.

Vehement condemnation of his policies was expressed to LaGuardia at the meeting by Rev. Richard M. Bolden and D. Ward Nichols. The Allinace itself was also severely scored by Rev. Bolden who registered a protest against what he characterized as "begging" favors from the Mayor.

During his speech, LaGuardia also asserted that the situation in Harlem was not unknown to him as had been charged. It was one of his greatest desires, he declared, to take action in the matters of both unemployment and housing but insufficient funds and inability to clear a desired loan thus far rendered such a thing impossible. Repeating his profession of faith in the decency and law abiding tendencies of the people of Harlem which characterized his original statement, released immediately after the riot, he called upon his hearers to cooperate with him and have faith in him.

The Alliance unanimously passed several resolutions pledging their suport to the Mayor in the effort to straighten out the affair and expressing appreciation of the tribute paid to the colored people of Harlem as expressed in his original statement.

Meeting at the West 135th Street Branch Y. M. C. A. Friday evening, the Harlem Committee on Public Policy discussed the recent disturbance also, with a view to taking steps toward the prevention of a recurrence of such an outbreak. The meeting called by Charles M Hanson, president of the organization, was made up of business and professional men and women and welfare workers.

Addresses at this meeting were made by several persons, including Captain Flynn of the 32nd Precinct. James H. Hubert, executive secretary of the New York Urban League, several prominent local clergymen and others.

HUMAN MISERY IN HARLEM

The Negro seems to have been born to suffer, otherwise a benevolent creator would not have endowed him with perhaps the most amiable temperament of all other men, this gift being vouchsafed him as a defense against his world.

In Africa he had, and was his burden to bear, including exposure to unhealthful conditions, including also ignorance. In this country, as in some others, he was enslaved. He had the good fortune to come into freedom rather early in his career in this country, but he was thrown upon his own resources before he was prepared to make his way in a competitive world.

Thereafter until a generation ago the Negro was the football of the white man's politics, a game which he rarely understood A generation ago he was removed from politics in most of the States where he was numerically strong. He fell then into a spirit of indifference to politics in those States where the vote of his kind was restricted if not prohibited.

Political neutrality caused few Negroes any emotional disturbance, it imposed no suffering upon them—on the contrary it has probably been a Godsend to both races since it cooled and softened the growing friction between them.

The Negro has made astounding progress in many ways in the days of his freedom. His achievements reflect great credit upon him. But the Negro had not been able to achieve "economic independence" even in the days of a half dozen years ago when the whites had it, or thought they had it. Now the whites have lost much of the ground that they had gained, the Negro has suffered even more.

Most American Negroes are now and have always been dreadfully poor. Most whites have been poor, but blacks have been poorer. Many exceptional whites have been prosperous, but exceptional blacks always have been less prosperous.

No doubt the average Alabama Negro thinks of Harlem as a much pleasanter and much more opulent community than that in which he lives.

Life in Harlem is no doubt more exciting than the average Alabama Negro knows anything about. But such life does not make for spiritual peace for its residents, nor does it make for economic security.

Those who follow the life of the Harlem Negro with critical interest know that ashes are on his tongue.

The Alabama black knows that so long as his face is not ashen he has strength and vigor; if his skin looks oily he is gay of spirit, though he may be less sophisticated than those Yankee Negroes that roll their r's and put sugar in their cornbread.

All of which comes to mind as we read of the recent Harlem riot in which 1 was killed and 100 injured.

After the disturbance had been quelled Joseph Mitchell, a staff writer for The New York World-Telegram, wrote a graphic and illuminating article for his paper which it seems to us should be reproduced in full by an Alabama newspaper.

We conclude by quoting this article:

Civic leaders of Harlem declared today that a bloody and disastrous repetition of last night's rioting might break forth at any time among the idle, half-starved and blindly resentful Negroes, who pass their days in the saloons and pool-rooms of the area and their nights in crowded, unsanitary and poorly heated tenement rooms.

"At any time there is the makings of a riot on the main street corners of the district," said James H. Hubert, executive director of the New York Urban League, Harlem's principal welfare organization.

"The Communists have made more headway in the last year or so than they ever did before, and there are a multitude of organizations whose one purpose is to arouse Negroes to boycott stores in Negro sections in which only white people are employed.

"The riot that broke forth yesterday has been festering for a long time. The people up here have been hungry. The Negro constitutes about four per cent of the city's population, but over 14 per cent of those on the relief rolls are Negroes. There are some blocks up here in which 80 per cent of the people are on relief.

"The community leaders up here have maintained that the Negro makes a mistake when he tries to start trouble by insisting on working in the stores in the Negro districts. I have maintained that the Negro should seek jobs on his merit and he should seek them anywhere and everywhere.

"However, there is a man up here from Chicago who calls himself Sufi Abdul Hamid, and he has stirred up the people until there is a lot of resentment against the white storekeepers in the district who do not employ Negroes.

"Also the people have been aroused because the police have closed up some of Father M. J. Divine's boarding houses, or 'heavens.'

"Sometime ago there was the beginning of a race riot in one of the night clubs and I got together a group of night club owners and policemen and we made certain reforms. Now, however, most of the night clubs are closed and there is no trouble starting in them. The investigation into the policy slip racket caused resentment, and all these things I have mentioned were in the minds of the people who began throwing bricks yesterday."

Charles M. Hanson, chairman of the Harlem Committee on Public Policy, a nonpartisan organization, will hold a meeting on Friday night at which Negro lawyers, doctors, newspaper publishers, night club proprietors and social workers will attempt to "discover the cause of the riot and plan a campaign to fight against a repetition."

Most of the Harlem storekeepers appeared to believe that the discrimination against Negro workers in the white stores of the district was the only reason behind the riot. On every Negro store in Harlem today there were signs bearing this legend, "Colored Store." One said: "Do not break this window. This is colored." There are many Chinese restaurants in Harlem, and they have placed similar signs on their windows. Chain stores have filled their windows with empty pasteboard boxes. Others have nailed boards across their windows.

It does not appear that the Harlem Negro is getting on any better than his Alabama brother. We wish it could be said that he was doing better, but the facts seem to be on the other side.

Riots - 1935

New York

The Road Is Clear

ONE IMPORTANT fact was established by the mayor's committee in its first public hearing last Saturday on the recent Harlem riots. Through the testimony of the police themselves, it was shown that the shortsightedness of a police officer and not the activities of the Young Liberators and Communists was the immediate cause of the fatal outbreak.

Had this officer, Raymond J. Donohue, released 16-year-old Lino Rivera in the view of the crowd assembled in front of the S. H. Kress store, on 125th street, the March 19 outbreak would not have occurred. Instead, Donohue carried the youth (accused of stealing a 10-cent knife) to the basement of the store and released him, unseen, on 124th street. This action gave rise to the report that a Negro youth had been beaten or killed, and resulted in a riot which claimed five lives and caused a $500,000 property damage. The much-publicized Young Liberator pamphlets, carrying the false reports, did not appear on the streets until two hours **after** the worst rioting was over, it was testified.

Disappointing as this testimony must be to District Attorney William C. Dodge and Mr. Randolph Hearst, who have attempted to use the Harlem outbreak as an excuse for a citywide Red-baiting campaign, it is well that this issue was settled at the outset by the committee. Now, with the red herring out of the way, the investigating body can set out to probe the basic factors which really precipitated the riots—the discrimination, exploitation and oppression of 204,000 American citizens in the most liberal city in America.

Amsterdam News 4-6-35 New York, N.Y.

Harlem Police Terror Increased Since March 19

Discrimination Against Negro People Is Supported by Federal Government Which Excludes Them From Jobs

By Oakley Johnson

ARTICLE III

If you run up to Harlem today and walk along its streets, you will find two burly white cops stationed in every block. No Negro policemen will be in sight. As on the day of the police-created riot, the Negro cops will be on duty somewhere else. All over Greater New York, in Queens, in Brooklyn's Crown Heights, wherever Negroes have been segregated into a jim-crow ghetto, the police—since March 19—have been sharpening their terror against Negroes, and against whites and Negroes fighting together against their common enemies. In Crown Heights, Brooklyn, three members of the Unemployment Council were arrested and held in $500 bail for merely distributing a leaflet on the Harlem situation.

Precisely **what** is the Harlem situation? What was the "situation," we may ask, **before** the March 19 events? What was the situation the day before, the night before—**for whole months and years before this outbreak?**

"It was not a riot," says the Reverend A. Clayton Powell, associate Negro pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, writing in the New York Post of March 27. "It was an open, unorganized protest against empty stomachs, overcrowded tenements, filthy sanitation, rotten foodstuffs, chiseling landlords and merchants, discrimination on relief, disfranchisement, and against a disinterested administration."

No Race Riot

Even the New York Age, the reactionary Negro publication which, on March 30, in opposition to the interests of Negro workers, attacked Communists editorially, declaring that "professional agitators" made "incendiary speeches" and caused the riot—this very paper contains evidence that the cause was elsewhere. The same issue which says, on page six, "the radicals began to riot," says on page one, reporting the words of Reverend John H Johnson of St. Martin's Church "What happened was not a race riot. . . . What happened here last Tuesday was the explosion of a suppressed people who have been exploited by the business interests of this community."

Rev. William P. Hayes of Newark, quoted in the same paper, supports this statement, and adds: "Those of us who are familiar with conditions in Harlem," he says, "have wondered at the patience and self-restraint exhibited by its three hundred thousand Negroes. No section of New York City has been so ruthlessly exploited by brazen and unscrupulous merchants."

Also quoted is Rev. William Lloyd Imes of St. James Presbyterian Church, who said, "We demand and expect that in spite of the regrettable rioting of this affair (**and perhaps, grimly enough, too, because of it**) there will be a little more willingness of the mercantile interests of 125th Street and vicinity, in respect of fair play, and absolute honesty in dealing with the Negro." (My emphasis.—O. J.)

On every side the contention of the Negro pastors is borne out. T. R. Poston's article in the March 23 Amsterdam News, widely-read Negro paper of Harlem, was headed, "Economic Conditions Factor Back of Riot." This paper's leading editorial says, bluntly, "If the various investigating bodies (and Mr Hearst) really wish to solve the Harlem problem, let them tackle the real, not the imaginary factors."

Even Times Admits It

"Harlem Riot Attributed to Many Ills," the New York Times, through Rose C. Feld, is obliged to say.

The Mayor's own Committee appointed to investigate the Harlem affair was forced to admit that the causes were, as the Committee's chairman, William Jay Schieffelin, said in a radio broadcast March 21, rooted in "injustice, exploitation and prejudice."

The Citizens' Emergency Committee, including James Waterman Wise, Frank Crosswaithe, and James W. Ford, confirmed these judgments to the hilt.

The City administration says that 62 per cent of the Negro workers of Harlem are unemployed; the Urban League declares that 80 per cent are unemployed. But what is the significance of arguing for one figure or another, when all admi that **well over a majority of Harlem workers have no jobs!**

The average unemployment for the whole city is 33 1-3 per cent a figure which **includes** the Harlem unemployed. This means that the average for white workers is rather less than 33 1-3 per cent It means, as Merrill C. Work of the Unemployment Council of Harlem pointed out, that Harlem unemployment is not merely twice as great proportionately as unemployment among whites in New York City; it means that **Harlem unemployment is three times as great.**

This is due to outrageous job discrimination. Ther are 300,000 Negroes in New York, 220,000 in Harlem itself, the remainder in segregated sections of Queens, in Crown Hights and elsewhere. For this 5 per cent of the city's population there are allotted a far smaller proportion of the jobs. And these jobs are chiefly for Negro women, not for Negro men. Especially, as the New York Times (March 24) admits, "the white collar vocations in the world of white men are closed" to Negroes.

Even in Harlem the jobs that exist go to whites, a large proportion of whom are brought in from outside to take the positions. On 125th Street, says Reverend A. C. Powell, out of 2,791 employes, only 13 are Negroes.

Harlem has 135 doctors and 100 dentists, but not one doctor or dentist is on the Federal work relief projects in Harlem. There is no Harlem Nursery project because the FERA refuses to establish one with a Negro staff. Ashley L. Totten of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters reports that approximately 400 of their 1,500 members in New York are not working,—and they are among the best organized of Harlem's workers.

It must be remembered that for months the main grievance against the Kress Department Store, where the so-called riot stated, as against other department stores there, was their denial of clerical jobs to Negroes despite the fact that the vast majority of those who shop in those stores are Negroes.

It is notorious that the Fifth Avenue Coach Company, though many of its coaches pass through Harlem, refuses to hire Negro drivers or conductors, and that Harlem Hospital discriminates against Negro doctors and nurses.

In the leaflet which Mayor LaGuardia had distributed in Harlem by the truckful, he asks Harlem people to be "patient" while he tries to find out the "causes of the disorder.' Does he really want to know the "causes"? Or is he simply trying to whitewash his own police and sidestep the actual situation?

James Ashford, brilliant young Negro organizer of the Young Communist League of Harlem, told me that 10,000 Daily Workers were sold in Harlem Wednesday night and Thursday morning, following the mass outbreak on Tuesday, March 19—three times as many as ever before! And 2,000 Young Workers were sold two days later! The Communist press presents the actual facts, and the people of Harlem—reading the Mayor's offensive proclamation with bitter eyes—know where to turn for the truth.

Daily Worker 4-2-35 N.Y.

CROWD TURBULENT AT HARLEM INQUIRY

Times

Many at Hearing by Hays's Committee Still Believe Boy Was Killed in Store.

4-7-35

HOUSING IS CRITICIZED

New York, N.Y.

Commissioner Post, Testifying for Ernst Group, Holds Rents Are Too High.

The residents of Harlem aired their complaints yesterday as two divisions of the Mayor's Commission on conditions in that area held all day hearings in the courtrooms of the Municipal Court at 445 West 151st Street.

One was devoted to finding the cause of the March 19 riots. Presided over by Arthur Garfield Hays, it was turbulent, noisy and emotional. The other was devoted to housing and there Tenement House Commissioner Post, among many other witnesses, testified. Morris L. Ernst presided.

At the opening of Mr. Hays's hearing, he read into the record a letter which District Attorney Dodge had sent to Police Commissioner Valentine, in which the police were ordered not to testify concerning any case pending in any court or before a grand jury.

"**I am responsible for the careful preservation of evidence of crime,**" he said. "The committee asked us for the evidence before the grand jury and we refused to produce it. I won't give out any evidence except to the court."

"**I don't think the attitude of the District Attorney is tenable, and I think it will be withdrawn,**" Mr. Hays commented.

Housing Held Background.

The testimony on housing provided a background against which the rioting assumed, in the mind of Mr. Ernst, additional significance. Fred Benedict, representing the Unemployed Council of Upper Harlem, 109 West 113th Street, told of poor living conditions.

All over the area, Mr. Post said, rents are abnormally high. Families pay 40 per cent and more of their income for rent, he said, adding that health conditions are worse than in any other comparable area in the city. Mr. Post said that low-cost housing, with rooms renting from $5 to $7 a month, on a large scale, would be the only effective cure.

Meanwhile downstairs about 400 of the people who live in the area were listening to Mr. Hays's efforts to learn the cause of the riots.

On March 19 Lino Rivera, a 16-year-old Puerto Rican boy, was caught stealing a 5-cent knife in the S. H. Kress store on 125th Street near Seventh Avenue. A crowd collected outside, and was fanned into action by a circular distributed by a group of Communists that a boy had been murdered by the manager and employes of the store. The rioting followed.

Believe a Boy Was Killed.

The thing which made the hearing turbulent was the unwillingness of those gathered there, often

Riots-1935

New York

The Road Is Clear

ONE IMPORTANT fact was established by the mayor's committee in its first public hearing last Saturday on the recent Harlem riots. Through the testimony of the police themselves, it was shown that the shortsightedness of a police officer and not the activities of the Young Liberators and Communists was the immediate cause of the fatal outbreak.

Had this officer, Raymond J. Donohue, released 16-year-old Lino Rivera in the view of the crowd assembled in front of the S. H. Kress store, on 125th street, the March 19 outbreak would not have occurred. Instead, Donohue carried the youth (accused of stealing a 10-cent knife) to the basement of the store and released him, unseen, on 124th street. This action gave rise to the report that a Negro youth had been beaten or killed, and resulted in a riot which claimed five lives and caused a $500,000 property damage. The much-publicized Young Liberator pamphlets, carrying the false reports, did not appear on the streets until two hours **after** the worst rioting was over, it was testified.

Disappointing as this testimony must be to District Attorney William C. Dodge and Mr. Randolph Hearst, who have attempted to use the Harlem outbreak as an excuse for a citywide Red-baiting campaign, it is well that this issue was settled at the outset by the committee. Now, with the red herring out of the way, the investigating body can set out to probe the basic factors which really precipitated the riots—the discrimination, exploitation and oppression of 204,000 American citizens in the most liberal city in America.

Harlem Police Terror Increased Since March 19

Discrimination Against Negro People Is Supported by Federal Government Which Excludes Them From Jobs

By Oakley Johnson

ARTICLE III

If you run up to Harlem today and walk along its streets, you will find two burly white cops stationed in every block. No Negro policemen will be in sight. As on the day of the police-created riot, the Negro cops will be on duty somewhere else. All over Greater New York, in Queens, in Brooklyn's Crown Heights, wherever Negroes have been segregated into a jim-crow ghetto the police—since March 19—have been sharpening their terror against Negroes and against whites and Negroes fighting together against their common enemies. In Crown Heights, Brooklyn, three members of the Unemployment Council were arrested and held in $500 bail for merely distributing a leaflet on the Harlem situation.

Precisely **what** is the Harlem situation? What was the "situation," we may ask, **before** the March 19 events? What was the situation the day before, the night before—**for whole months and years before this outbreak?**

"It was not a riot," says the Reverend A. Clayton Powell, associate Negro pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, writing in the New York Post of March 27. "It was an open, unorganized protest against empty stomachs, overcrowded tenements, filthy sanitation, rotten foodstuffs, chiseling landlords and merchants, discrimination on relief, disfranchisement, and against a disinterested administration."

No Race Riot

Even the New York Age, the reactionary Negro publication which, on March 30, in opposition to the interests of Negro workers, attacked Communists editorially, declaring that "professional agitators" made "incendiary speeches" and caused the riot—this very paper contains evidence that the cause was elsewhere. The same issue which says, on page six, "the radicals began to riot," says on page one, reporting the words of Reverend John H Johnson of St. Martin's Church "What happened was not a race riot. . . . What happened here last Tuesday was the explosion of a suppressed people who have been exploited by the business interests of this community."

Rev. William P. Hayes of Newark, quoted in the same paper, supports this statement, and adds: "Those of us who are familiar with conditions in Harlem," he says, "have wondered at the patience and self-restraint exhibited by its three hundred thousand Negroes. No section of New York City has been so ruthlessly exploited by brazen and unscrupulous merchants."

Also quoted is Rev. William Lloyd Imes of St. James Presbyterian Church, who said, "We demand and expect that in spite of the regrettable rioting of this affair (**and perhaps, grimly enough, too, because of it**) there will be a little more willingness of the mercantile interests of 125th Street and vicinity, in respect of fair play, and absolute honesty in dealing with the Negro." (My emphasis.—O. J.)

On every side the contention of the Negro pastors is borne out. T. R. Poston's article in the March 23 Amsterdam News, widely-read Negro paper of Harlem, was headed, "Economic Conditions Factor Back of Riot." This paper's leading editorial says, bluntly, "If the various investigating bodies (and Mr. Hearst) really wish to solve the Harlem problem, let them tackle the real, not the imaginary factors."

Even Times Admits It

"Harlem Riot Attributed to Many Ills," the New York Times, through Rose C. Feld, is obliged to say.

The Mayor's own Committee appointed to investigate the Harlem affair was forced to admit that the causes were, as the Committee's chairman, William Jay Schieffelin, said in a radio broadcast March 21, rooted in "injustice, exploitation and prejudice."

The Citizens' Emergency Committee, including James Waterman Wise, Frank Crosswaithe, and James W. Ford, confirmed these judgments to the hilt.

The City administration says that 62 per cent of the Negro workers of Harlem are unemployed; the Urban League declares that 80 per cent are unemployed. But what is the significance of arguing for one figure or another, when all admit that **well over a majority of Harlem workers have no jobs!**

The average unemployment for the whole city is 33 1-3 per cent, a figure which **includes** the Harlem unemployed. This means that the average for white workers is rather less than 33 1-3 per cent. It means, as Merrill C. Work of the Unemployment Council of Harlem pointed out, that Harlem unemployment is not merely twice as great proportionately as unemployment among whites in New York City; it means that **Harlem unemployment is three times as great.**

This is due to outrageous job discrimination. Ther are 300,000 Negroes in New York, 220,000 in Harlem itself, the remainder in segregated sections of Queens, in Crown Hights and elsewhere. For this 5 per cent of the city's population there are allotted a far smaller proportion of the jobs. And these jobs are chiefly for Negro women, not for Negro men. Especially, as the New York Times (March 24) admits, "the white collar vocations in the world of white men are closed" to Negroes.

Even in Harlem the jobs that exist go to whites, a large proportion of whom are brought in from outside to take the positions. On 125th Street, says Reverend A. C. Powell, out of 2,791 employes, only 13 are Negroes.

Harlem has 135 doctors and 100 dentists, but not one doctor or dentist is on the Federal work relief projects in Harlem. There is no Harlem Nursery project because the FERA refuses to establish one with a Negro staff. Ashley L. Totten of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters reports that approximately 400 of their 1,500 members in New York are not working,—and they are among the best organized of Harlem's workers.

It must be remembered that for months the main grievance against the Kress Department Store, where the so-called riot stated, as against other department stores there, was their denial of clerical jobs to Negroes despite the fact that the vast majority of those who shop in those stores are Negroes.

It is notorious that the Fifth Avenue Coach Company, though many of its coaches pass through Harlem, refuses to hire Negro drivers or conductors, and that Harlem Hospital discriminates against Negro doctors and nurses.

In the leaflet which Mayor LaGuardia had distributed in Harlem by the truckful, he asks Harlem people to be "patient" while he tries to find out the "causes of the disorder.' Does he really want to know the "causes"? Or is he simply trying to whitewash his own police and sidestep the actual situation?

James Ashford, brilliant young Negro organizer of the Young Communist League of Harlem, told me that 10,000 Daily Workers were sold in Harlem Wednesday night and Thursday morning, following the mass outbreak on Tuesday, March 19—three times as many as ever before! And 2,000 Young Workers were sold two days later! The Communist press presents the actual facts, and the people of Harlem—reading the Mayor's offensive proclamation with bitter eyes—know where to turn for the truth.

CROWD TURBULENT AT HARLEM INQUIRY

Many at Hearing by Hays's Committee Still Believe Boy Was Killed in Store.

4-9-35

HOUSING IS CRITICIZED

Commissioner Post, Testifying for Ernst Group, Holds Rents Are Too High.

The residents of Harlem aired their complaints yesterday as two divisions of the Mayor's Commission on conditions in that area held all day hearings in the courtrooms of the Municipal Court at 445 West 151st Street.

One was devoted to finding the cause of the March 19 riots. Presided over by Arthur Garfield Hays, it was turbulent, noisy and emotional. The other was devoted to housing and there Tenement House Commissioner Post, among many other witnesses, testified. Morris L. Ernst presided.

At the opening of Mr. Hays's hearing, he read into the record a letter which District Attorney Dodge had sent to Police Commissioner Valentine, in which the police were ordered not to testify concerning any case pending in any court or before a grand jury.

"I am **responsible for** the careful preservation of evidence of crime," he said. "The committee asked us for the evidence before the grand jury and we refused to produce it. I won't give out any evidence except to the court."

"I don't think the attitude of the District Attorney is tenable, and I think it will be withdrawn," Mr. Hays said.

Housing Held Background.

The testimony on housing provided a background against which the committee asked us rioting assumed, in the mind of Mr. Ernst, additional significance. Fred Post said, representing the Unemployed Council of Upper Harlem, 109 West 113th Street, told of poor living conditions.

All over the area, Mr. Post said, rents are abnormally high. Families pay 40 per cent and more of their income for rent, he said, adding that health conditions are worse than in any other comparable area in the city. Mr. Post said that low-rent housing, with rooms renting for $5 to $7 a month, on a large scale, would be the only effective cure.

Meanwhile downstairs about 400 people who live in the area gathered to hear Mr. Hays's efforts to learn the cause of the riots.

The thing which made the hearing turbulent was the unwillingness of those gathered there, often to believe a Boy Was Killed.

On March 19 Lino Rivera, a 16-year-old Puerto Rican boy, was stealing a 5-cent knife in the S. H. Kress store on 125th Street near Seventh Avenue. A collected outside, and was distributed by a circular into action by a group of Communists that a boy had been murdered by the manager and employes of the store. The rioting followed.

NEGRO BOY, SHOT BY COP MAR. 19, DIES

Daily Worker

Communists Give Proof of Jim-Crowism to Mayor's Committee

By Cyril Briggs

Sixteen-year-old Lloyd Hobbs, Negro high school boy, died in Harlem Hospital Saturday night, less than four hours after his brother, Russell, 15-year old school boy, testifying at the open hearings of the Mayor's Committee investigating the March 19 outbreak in Harlem, had related how Lloyd was brutally shot down by Patrolman McIniny, white, of the West 123rd Street Station. Lloyd's death is the fourth fatality in the murderous terror unleashed by police on March 19 against the hungry workers of Harlem. In addition, on March 23, Edward Laurie, 32-year old Negro worker, was callously murdered by Patrolman Abraham Zabutinski, police killer of a Porto Rican school child last Sept. 5.

Russell, a black-skinned, undersized lad who was accompanied by his father, testified that Lloyd and himself were standing at the corner of Seventh Avenue and 127th Street on the night of March 19. They had just come out of a show on West 125th Street and were unaware of the disturbances earlier in the evening before the Kress store, West 125th Street. A police radio car rushed up, a policeman jumped out in front of the two lads, and the frightened children fled to escape manhandling. In their fright they took off in different directions. As Russell ran off he heard the report of a shot. Returning later to look for his brother he was told by a spectator that "the boy who was with you was shot by a policeman."

Lloyd, wounded in the abdomen remained unconscious to the end according to the hospital reports. The police whitewashed the shooting of the innocent school boy, with the lie that he had been caught in the act of looting stores, whose windows had been smashed by indignant Negro workers protesting hunger conditions and jim-crow relief in discrimination and jobs in Harlem. The family of the murdered boy lives at 321 St. Nicholas Avenue.

Russell's story of the brutal shooting of his brother, told simply and timidly, was one of a number of telling indictments of police brutality made at the open hearing of the Mayor's Committee held in the Seventh District Court, 135 West 151st Sreet. The hearing opened at 10 a.m. and continued until 6:30 p.m. with an hour's recess for lunch.

Ford Presents Evidence

James W. Ford, Communist leader in Harlem, offered evidence on 15 cases of police brutality in the recent period, of pestilential housing conditions in Harlem, and jim-crow discrimination by the city and its relief agencies in the administering of relief, on public works and in the case of private employers who refuse employment to Negroes except as porters and scrubwomen.

Robert Minor, veteran Communist leader and a vice-president of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, indignantly denounced the police murders and mass arrests of Negro workers in connection with the March 19 events, and the subsequent whitewashing of the police killers. He demanded that the Mayor's Committee investigate these wanton police killings and the long record of bestial police brutality against the people of Harlem.

Police Admit Jim-Crowism

Minor, who with Joseph Tauber and Edward Kuntz, International Labor Defense attorneys, questioned the witnesses pinned the police witnesses to admissions of the starvation conditions and jim-crow discrimination imposed by the ruling class upon the Negro people. He offered to present the committee with proof of discrimination in relief by the city against unemployed Negro families.

Witnesses, including some of the police, agreed that the Young Liberator leaflets, blamed by District Attorney William C. Dodge and Mayor LaGuardia for the outbreak, had not appeared on the streets until two hours after the outburst had reached its highest point in the smashing of store windows along 125th Street. Police Inspector John J. diMarino indirectly gave the lie to the Dodge-LaGuardia red-baiting campaign in his admission that the outbreak had not been caused by any political group.

Arthur Garfield Hays, attorney, who presided, after hearing police and other witnesses, declared that there had been lots of circumstantial evidence on the night of March 19 to support the general belief in Harlem that a Negro child had been killed in the S. H. Kress store. He criticized the mystery with which the store management and the police had surrounded the affair; their refusad to produce the boy or to make any explanation to the indignant woman demanding information on the child.

Loud boos from over 600 persons, mostly Negroes, who attended the hearing, greeted Alexander H. Kaminsky, assistant district attorney, who appeared before the committee to report on the indictments obtained by District Attorney Dodge against over a dozen Harlem workers, but refused to discuss the nature of the indictments. His statement that he would refuse to discuss the indictments "before these irresponsible people," brought sharp protests from Minor and the I. L. D. attorneys, Tauber and Kuntz. Hays here interjected that Kaminsky "had no right to call these men irresponsible because their views are different from yours."

Cite Cases of Terror

John Romney, Negro attorney representing the Civil Rights Protective Association, cited many cases of police terror, including the murderer of an East Indian child last year.

Police Inspector di Martini and other police witnesses admitted the existence of long-standing ill-feeling between the people of Harlem and the police. Suave and debonair, di Martini at the same time told the committee that the people of Harlem all loved him. This evoked an outburst of sarcastic laughter from the crowd.

The police inspector boasted that his fertile brain had concocted the idea of having the lone Negro police lieutenant, Samuel J. Battles, take his photograph in a protective pose with Lina Rivera, the 16-year old boy produced by the police as the boy whose reported beating by Kress store floor-walkers and police provided the spark for the March 19 outbreak. An emergency call had been sent out for Battles, di Martini stated, and the photographs released to the press in an effort to off-set the persistent rumors in Harlem that a 10-year old Negro child had been brutally beaten and killed at Kress's. Many in the court room wondered if di Martini's imagination had extended beyond the "protective posing" of Battles with the Rivera boy. Throughout the hearing, the Mayor's Committee sought to dispose of rumors, still persisting in Harlem, that the Rivera boy had been substituted by the police for the real victim.

Charge Trapped

The Harlem boy, testifying, denied he had been beaten or even taken into the basement at Kress's. Patrolman Donohue, who was among the first policemen to reach the store, testified that the boy had been taken into the basement. Tauber, I. L. D. attorney, asked the Rivera boy if the Kress people and the police had promised to drop the charge against him of steading a penknife if he denied he had been beaten. The boy denied this. Tauber pointed out that the charge was not being pressed.

Joseph Taylor, president of the Young Liberators, testified that on the afternoon of March 19, workers had come to the office of the Young Liberators to report the beating of a Negro child in Kress's. He then set out to investigate the matter, but was refused any information by the Kress people and the police. Meantime, other workers had visited the office and the organization had got out a leaflet.

Police Provocative

Louise Thompson and several other eye-witnesses of the March 19 events, testified that there might have been no outbreak had the police not been provocative, pushing Negro women around in Kress's when they asked information about the boy.

Hays and other members of the Mayor's Committee attempted to force Ford to admit that the presence of a police army was necessary to maintain "order" that night in Harlem. Hays asked:

"Do you think that Harlem would have been better off if the police had been absent."

No Police Thugs in U.S.S.R.

Ford quickly retorted that when the people organize their own government as in the Soviet Union they will set up their own defense forces and there would then be no clashes between the people and police. The role of the police under capitalism, he pointed out, is to protect the Kresses and other property owners. "I have lived in the Soviet Union for several years, and people there are not shot down and beaten by police thugs."

Ford's statement caused a commotion in the Mayor's Committee, and members of the committee quickly interrupted him.

booing or cheering, to believe that a boy had not actually been murdered in the store. Rivera, who lives with his mother at 472 St. Nicholas Avenue, took the stand and declared that he had not been beaten or injured in any way.

"He's a paid witness," some of those in the room shouted. "He wasn't the only boy in that store." "The police are covering up," others exclaimed.

Robert C. Minor, Communist leader, who had cross-examined Rivera, took the witness stand at Mr. Hays's suggestion. After considerable parrying and sparring he admitted that the afternoon the leaflet charging murder was circulated there was no evidence to prove the charge. He was asked if, in view of the error, he wished to apologize for the circulation.

"If an error was committeed," said Mr. Minor, "it is regrettable and should be corrected. But I am not yet convinced it was an error." The crowd cheered him.

Mr. Hays then took up the case of Lloyd Hobbs, 16-year-old Negro boy, who was killed by a policeman's bullet in the rioting. The boy's father, Lawyer Hobbs of 321 St. Nicholas Avenue; Howard Malloy and Arthur Moore, both of 213 West 128th Street, and Russell Hobbs, a brother, told of the shooting. They declared that the boy had been shot as he tried to run away, and that Patrolman McInerny of the East 104th Street station, who fired the shot, had not commanded him to halt. This case will be continued at the next hearing, on April 20 in the same place.

PLAN TO DEPORT HARLEMITES TO GET THEM OFF RELIEF ROLLS

NEW YORK - (CNA) In the background of the recent Harlem disturbances caused by enforced starvation, police brutality and rent robbery, lies the proposal to deport 25,000 Negroes from the West Indies in order to get them off the relief rolls.

3-30-35

Foreign born workers in Harlem who demand adequate relief are threatened with deportation.

NEGRO BOY, SHOT BY COP MAR. 19, DIES

Daily Worker

Communists Give Proof of Jim-Crowism to Mayor's Committee

4-4-35

By Cyril Briggs

Sixteen-year-old Lloyd Hobbs, Negro high school boy, died in Harlem Hospital Saturday night, less than four hours after his brother, Russell, 15-year old school boy, testifying at the open hearings of the Mayor's Committee investigating the March 19 outbreak in Harlem, had related how Lloyd was brutally shot down by Patrolman McIniny, white, of the West 123rd Street Station. Lloyd's death is the fourth fatality in the murderous terror unleashed by police on March 19 against the hungry workers of Harlem. In addition, on March 23, Edward Laurie, 32-year old Negro worker, was callously murdered by Patrolman Abraham Zabutinski, police killer of a Porto Rican school child last Sept. 5.

Russell, a black-skinned, undersized lad who was accompanied by his father, testified that Lloyd and himself were standing at the corner of Seventh Avenue and 127th Street on the night of March 19. They had just come out of a show on West 125th Street and were unaware of the disturbances earlier in the evening before the Kress store, West 125th Street. A police radio car rushed up, a policeman jumped out in front of the two lads, and the frightened children fled to escape manhandling. In their fright they took off in different directions. As Russell ran off he heard the report of a shot. Returning later to look for his brother he was told by a spectator that "the boy who was with you was shot by a policeman."

Lloyd, wounded in the abdomen, remained unconscious to the end according to the hospital reports. The police whitewashed the shooting of the innocent school boy, with the lie that he had been caught in the act of looting stores, whose windows had been smashed by indignant Negro workers protesting hunger conditions and jim-crow relief in discrimination and jobs in Harlem. The family of the murdered boy lives at 321 St. Nicholas Avenue.

Russell's story of the brutal shooting of his brother, told simply and timidly, was one of a number of telling indictments of police brutality made at the open hearing of the Mayor's Committee held in the Seventh District Court, 135 West 151st Sreet. The hearing opened at 10 a.m. and continued until 6:30 p.m. with an hour's recess for lunch.

Harlem

Ford Presents Evidence

James W. Ford, Communist leader in Harlem, offered evidence on 15 cases of police brutality in the recent period, of pestilential housing conditions in Harlem, and jim-crow discrimination by the city and its relief agencies in the administering of relief, on public works and in the case of private employers who refuse employment to Negroes except as porters and scrubwomen.

Robert Minor, veteran Communist leader and a vice-president of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, indignantly denounced the police murders and mass arrests of Negro workers in connection with the March 19 events, and the subsequent whitewashing of the police killers. He demanded that the Mayor's Committee investigate these wanton police killings and the long record of bestial police brutality against the people of Harlem.

Police Admit Jim-Crowism

Minor, who with Joseph Tauber and Edward Kuntz, International Labor Defense attorneys, questioned the witnesses pinned the police witnesses to admissions of the starvation conditions and jim-crow discrimination imposed by the ruling class upon the Negro people. He offered to present the committee with proof of discrimination in relief by the city against unemployed Negro families.

Witnesses, including some of the police, agreed that the Young Liberator leaflets, blamed by District Attorney William C. Dodge and Mayor LaGuardia for the outbreak, had not appeared on the streets until two hours after the outburst had reached its highest point in the smashing of store windows along 125th Street. Police Inspector John J. diMarino indirectly gave the lie to the Dodge-LaGuardia red-baiting campaign in his admission that the outbreak had not been caused by any political group.

Arthur Garfield Hays, attorney, who presided, after hearing police and other witnesses, declared that there had been lots of circumstantial evidence on the night of March 19 to support the general belief in Harlem that a Negro child had been killed in the S. H. Kress store. He criticized the mystery with which the store management and the police had surrounded the affair; their refusad to produce the boy or to make any explanation to the indignant woman demanding information on the child.

Loud boos from over 600 persons, mostly Negroes, who attended the hearing, greeted Alexander H. Kaminsky, assistant district attorney, who appeared before the committee to report on the indictments obtained by District Attorney Dodge against over a dozen Harlem workers, but refused to discuss the nature of the indictments. His statement that he would refuse to discuss the indictments "before these irresponsible people," brought sharp protests from Minor and the I. L. D. attorneys, Tauber and Kuntz. Hays here interjected that Kaminsky "had no right to call these men irresponsible because their views are different from yours."

Cite Cases of Terror

John Romney, Negro attorney representing the Civil Rights Protective Association, cited many cases of police terror, including the murderer of an East Indian child last year.

Police Inspector di Martini and other police witnesses admitted the existence of long-standing ill-feeling between the people of Harlem and the police. Suave and debonair, di Martini at the same time told the committee that the people of Harlem all loved him. This evoked an outburst of sarcastic laughter from the crowd.

The police inspector boasted that his fertile brain had concocted the idea of having the lone Negro police lieutenant, Samuel J. Battles, take his photograph in a protective pose with Lina Rivera, the 16-year old boy produced by the police as the boy whose reported beating by Kress store floor-walkers and police provided the spark for the March 19 outbreak. An emergency call had been sent out for Battles, di Martini stated, and the photographs released to the press in an effort to off-set the persistent rumors in Harlem that a 10-year old Negro child had been brutally beaten and killed at Kress's. Many in the court room wondered if di Martini's imagination had extended beyond the "protective posing" of Battles with the Rivera boy. Throughout the hearing, the Mayor's Committee sought to dispose of rumors, still persisting in Harlem, that the Rivera boy had been substituted by the police for the real victim.

Charge Trapped

The Harlem boy, testifying, denied he had been beaten or even taken into the basement at Kress's. Patrolman Donohue, who was among the first policemen to reach the store, testified that the boy had been taken into the basement. Tauber, I. L. D. attorney, asked the Rivera boy if the Kress people and the police had promised to drop the charge against him of steading a penknife if he denied he had been beaten. The boy denied this. Tauber pointed out that the charge was not being pressed.

Joseph Taylor, president of the Young Liberators, testified that on the afternoon of March 19, workers had come to the office of the Young Liberators to report the beating of a Negro child in Kress's. He then set out to investigate the matter, but was refused any information by the Kress people and the police. Meantime, other workers had visited the office and the organization had got out a leaflet.

Police Provocative

Louise Thompson and several other eye-witnesses of the March 19 events, testified that there might have been no outbreak had the police not been provocative, pushing Negro women around in Kress's when they asked information about the boy.

Hays and other members of the Mayor's Committee attempted to force Ford to admit that the presence of a police army was necessary to maintain "order" that night in Harlem. Hays asked:

"Do you think that Harlem would have been better off if the police had been absent."

No Police Thugs in U.S.S.R.

Ford quickly retorted that when the people organize their own government as in the Soviet Union they will set up their own defense forces and there would then be no clashes between the people and police. The role of the police under capitalism, he pointed out, is to protect the Kresses and other property owners. "I have lived in the Soviet Union for several years, and people there are not shot down and beaten by police thugs."

Ford's statement caused a commotion in the Mayor's Committee, and members of the committee quickly interrupted him.

PLAN TO DEPORT HARLEMITES TO GET THEM OFF RELIEF ROLLS

Daily Worker

NEW YORK - (CNA) In the background of the recent Harlem disturbances caused by enforced starvation, police brutality and rent robbery, lies the proposal to deport 25,000 Negroes from the West Indies in order to get them off the relief rolls.

3-30-35

Foreign born workers in Harlem who demand adequate relief are threatened with deportation.

Riots – 1935

New York

New York World Telegram

MAR 20 1935

1 DEAD, 100 HURT IN HARLEM RIOT; 120 ARE JAILED

Worst Outbreak in 25 Years Marked by Sniping and Looting—Police Rout Sharpshooters' Nests.

FURTHER VIOLENCE FEARED TONIGHT

Dodge Opens Inquiry Into Uprising as La Guardia Warns "Communists Can't Come In and Run the City."

One man died today in Harlem Hospital, victim of the armed fighting in the Harlem battle zone, where 100 others were wounded and 120 prisoners were taken yesterday afternoon and this morning.

Trouble flared anew at daybreak today in the worst outbreak of race rioting in New York in twenty-five years when police clashed with bands of snipers and looters.

High police officials, believing there would be no further violence during daylight hours, were uncertain about what might happen after dusk when word got around that a young Negro, James Thompson, 22, of 202 St. Nicholas Ave., had died of a bullet fired by a detective who said the youth was looting. Meantime, unusual police guards were posted in and near Magistrate's courts as prisoners were arraigned.

Trouble cropped out anew in the riot area early today when a nest of Negro snipers on a roof at 138th St .and Lenox Ave. tried to pick off a lone policeman on duty at that point. As other officers came to his assistance and closed in on the snipers one of them, in trying to escape, plunged off the roof. He was taken to Harlem Hospital in a dying condition.

Another Negro, caught looting an A. & P. store at 127th St. and Eighth Ave., was shot down by a detective as he fled. He also is expected to die.

Five men, described as Communist agitators, were seized on charges of having fomented the riot. Police also raided the headquarters of the Young Liberators, a radical organization, at 126th St. and Lenox Ave., but found that all of its officials had fled.

A circular distributed by the Young Liberators, in which it was charged that a "Negro boy" had been brutally beaten and a Negro woman's arm had been broken by the managers of a 5-and-10 cent store and by policemen was blamed by the authorities for the outbreak.

Dodge Opens Inquiry.

District Attorney William C. Dodge at once opened an investigation into the rioting and summoned ten witnesses. He announced that Mayor La Guardia had communicated with him last night and that he would present evidence to the Grand Jury to "show the Communists that they cannot come into this city and start trouble."

When the prisoners were placed in the line-up at Police Headquarters it was brought out that twenty-one of them were on the Home Relief Bureau rolls, three formerly had received home relief and another had been a CWA worker. Representatives of the Welfare Department and the Aldermanic committee investigating relief took down the names of all prisoners.

The streets of Harlem resembled a battlefield. Sidewalks and roadways were strewn with broken glass, bricks and torn clothing. Shattered windows in scores of stores presented gaping holes. The charred interiors of several shops in which fires broke out added to the appearance of a war-ravaged town.

District Armed Camp.

The whole district was an armed camp. Hundreds of policemen, many carrying riot guns, patroled the streets. Motorcycle squads and radio cars whizzed over the battleground to the shriek of sirens. Mounted men cantered at strategic points.

Nine men who were shot during the rioting were in hospitals, three of them near death. Among the score of others wounded and in a serious condition were several policemen who were struck by bricks and several white men who were attacked by mobs of Negroes.

Dr. Maurice T. Gilder, optometrist, the show window of whose store at 2,084 Lenox Ave. was broken and its contents looted, announced he was organizing a committee to call on Mayor La Guardia to protest against what he called "laxity" of the police in quelling the rioting when it first flared. He said he would ask the Mayor whether he had issued an order that the police were to deal gently with the rioters.

Report Order Restored.

High police officials said shortly before noon that the situation was well in hand and they expected no further rioting during the day. If any further violence occurs, they declared, it would be after nightfall tonight. However, extra precautions were taken at Harlem and Washington Heights courts during arraignment of the prisoners. Strong police details kept the crowds at bay.

Although the whole section seethed with excitement, police kept the throngs on the move and gave them no time to organize for mass demonstrations.

The spark that set off the rioting was a trivial incident that took place in the S. H. Kress & Co. store at 256 W. 125th St. Two floor walkers saw Lino Rivera, a 16-year-old Puerto Rican boy, take a 5-cent pocket knife and seized him. He struggled as they tried to take him downstairs to the manager's office and several women customers, who witnessed the incident, circulated rumors that he had been beaten.

Rumors Inflame Harlem.

These rumors grew in the telling and soon word spread through Harlem that a "Negro boy" had been beaten to death. Actually, the boy, however, had been permitted to go home unharmed and no complaint was pressed against him.

The rioting, which began in front of the store, flared up sporadically in other parts of Harlem, and continued intermittently until early morning.

Two thousand rioters ranged through the streets, from 120th St. and Eighth Ave. to 140th St. and Fifth Ave., defying the police and bombarding them with bricks and other missiles. Whenever the police succeeded in scattering them, the mobs re-formed to continue their outbreaks.

Snipe at Policeman.

After police had concentrated more than 500 uniformed men, 200 detectives and fifty radio cars from all over the city in Harlem, the rioting died down and the large mobs dispersed. But smaller groups went on storming through the streets smashing windows and attempting to loot stores. Fires in several stores added to the confusion.

At 4 A. M., Deputy Chief Inspector David J. McAuliffe, in command of the forces in Harlem, made a tour of the battle zone and reported that all was quiet.

An hour after Inspector McAuliffe returned to the W. 123rd St. station a bullet whistled past the ear of Patrolman Jerry Brennan, of the Morrisania station, as he was on post at Lenox Ave. and 138th St. As he ran to cover, he observed a group of Negroes on the roof of the six-story tenement at 101 W. 138th St.

Reinforcements arrived a minute later and the police dashed up to the roof of the tenement just as several Negroes started running to other roofs. One of them, Charles Alston, 21, of 512 W. 153rd St., tried to leap to the top of an adjoining building six feet away but missed his footing and plunged to the second floor ledge of the adjoining building.

Three Shots in Chest.

Cruising along Eighth Ave. in a radio car at daybreak, Detectives Nicholas Campo and Theodore Beckler heard the crash of a splintering window a block away. While Beckler searched an adjoining store Campo entered the A. & P. store at 2,365 Eighth Ave.

A big Negro suddenly loomed up in front of him and, knocking him down, darted through the broken window into the street. Campo fired three shots, two of which struck the fugitive in the chest. The Negro who said he was James Thompson, 19, of 207 St. Nicholas Ave., also was taken to the hospital.

The yards, corridors and stairways of the Harlem and Washington Heights court buildings were filled with policemen and detectives. Other policemen were alert on adjacent roofs. Hundreds massed in the streets and police reserves were held at strategic points to start rolling at the first sign of renewed disorders.

Court Scene Tense.

Several tense situation built up in Harlem Court before Magistrate H. Stanley Renaud.

The attorney for a white prisoner, bellowing at a witness, seemed to hint that the troubles were started by Negroes and that the issue was racial. Negroes in the jammed room murmured disapprovingly.

The Magistrate checked the lawyer forthwith, banging his gavel warning:—

"We recognize no race, color or religion here. All we are looking for is law and order. I am going

NEW YORK AMERICAN

MAR 31 1935

RIOT HEARING BRINGS CLASH OF ATTORNEYS

Labor Defense Lawyer Tries to Make Youth Say He Was Beaten, but He Denies It

HAYS CHIDES PROSECUTOR

Charges of Police Brutality Meet Allegations That Agitators Incited the Violence

Angry argument between opposing attorneys attended the investigation of the Harlem riot by the Mayor's committee yesterday.

Police brutality was charged by one witness. Radical agitation fanned the emotions of the mob, it was brought out. Out of the conflicting testimony, developed a definite story of the events leading to the outbreak.

Lino Rivera, the sixteen-year-old Puerto Rican who unwittingly originated the violence, told the committee, headed by Arthur G. Hays, that he 'picked up a knife, not intentionally,' in the Kress store at Eighth ave. and 125th st. He went on:

"A floor-walker, Charles Hurley, caught my arm. Another floor-walker came up. He said: 'Let's take him down in the cellar and beat him up.'

Woman Screamed

"There were about 50 people in the store, women mostly. One woman screamed they were taking me downstairs to kill me."

The boy said he was taken to the cellar by a policeman and released through a rear door. Patrolman R. J. Donaahaue testified he saw the crowd storming the store and seized the boy for safety. Rivera said he was taken into custody at home later and escorted to the station house. Inspector De Martino explained this was done to photograph the boy and show he suffered no injury.

Joseph Tauber, counsel for the International Labor Defense, tried to make Rivera say he was beaten in the cellar and that police had told him to deny it. The boy insisted he was not beaten.

Prosecutor Protests

A. H. Kaminsky, Assistant Attorney, called the Labor Defense lawyers to account for 'police baiting' at every opportunity. Kaminsky added:

"I won't be a party to a field day for irresponsible persons."

Chairman Hays told Kaminsky not to call persons irresponsible because they had opposing political convictions. Hays asked Tauber if he contended the police 'picked on' certain persons in the crowd because of their political belief. Tauber said:

"I certainly do. Look at the raids they made on Communist headquarters and the Hospital Workers League."

Not a Race Riot

Lieut. Samuel Battle, Negro policeman, asserted the outbreak was not a race riot. He said:

"There were white people who assisted the Negroes. Margaret Mitchell, who contends she saw this boy beaten, refused to appear at this hearing."

Louise Mitchell, Negress, said the store was stormed when employes refused to produce the boy. She said police told the crowd they would protect the boy and someone screamed:

"Yes, you'll protect us like you do down South by lynching us."

The witness told of another woman who ran through the crowd shouting that the boy was dead.

Liberator Heard

Joe Taylor, president of the Young Liberators League, which printed the inflamatory handbills that accelerated the riot, denied his organization is Communistic. He said he heard rumore that a Negro boy was beaten and tried to get information at the store from police. Failing, he said he printed the handbills. He asked Chairman Hays if he would not have done the same. Hays replied:

"I imagine, if I were a Young Liberator, I'd believe the worst. But your people have suffered many wrongs because white people believed in rumors."

James W. Ford, head of the Colored Communist Organization, advocated from the witness stand a change in American government to the Soviet system.

Acting Police Captain Rothengast declared the violence was inspired by trouble-makers.

NEW YORK TIMES

APR 1 1935

INQUIRY ON HARLEM TO LAST TWO MONTHS

Exhaustive Study of Conditions Is Laid Out by Mayor's Group Named After Riot.

The Mayor's committee investigating conditions in Harlem expects that its inquiry will last more than two months, Dr. Charles H. Roberts of 233 West 139th Street, its chairman, said yesterday.

The committee of twelve, which devoted its first public hearing on Saturday to the recent rioting, has been divided into eight subcommittees, Dr. Roberts said. Each group has a specific problem to study in preparation for public hearings and for a final report to Mayor La Guardia.

The next public hearing, to be held on Saturday in the Municipal Court at 455 West 151st Street, will take up housing and playgrounds. The hearing on the following Saturday is expected to deal with employment and discrimination.

The subcommittees and their chairmen are: Crime, Arthur Garfield Hays; discrimination in employment, Hubert Delaney, city tax commissioner; education, Oswald Garrison Villard; law and legislation, Mr. Delaney; health and sanitation, Dr. Roberts; housing and playgrounds, Morris Ernst; labor problems, A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and relief agencies, Dr. Roberts.

"The Mayor wants us to make a study of social and economic problems and we intend to make an exhaustive one," Dr. Roberts said. "We want the real fundamental facts behind the recent disturbance, which in my opinion was not interracial at all."

---

to show there is no discrimination here between black and white. We have no black and no white—we're all one race."

Woman Collapses.

Again a young Negro woman, put on the stand for examination on the charge she participated in rioting in the Kress store, denied the charge loudly, then, standing up, screamed. She collapsed. When revived, she said she was Margaret Mitchell, 283 W. 150th St.

Two Negroes, convicted of throwing ash cans through store windows, went to jail for five days each when arraigned before Magistrate Michael Ford in Washington Heights Court and were unable to pay $25 fines.

Police charges that radicals were responsible for the serious outbreak were repeated by Daugherty Shavors, 28, of 664 Lenox Ave., an unemployed Negro chauffeur who witnessed the beginning of the riot.

"I had been at a movie," said Shavors, "when about 4 P. M. I saw a crowd at 125th St. and Seventh Ave., in front of the Kress store. About twenty Reds were leading. They had twenty or twenty-five signs. Some read 'Fight for Your Rights' and 'Kress Brutality to Little Child.' The Reds would wave the signs and shout to the crowd. The crowd surged toward the store. The ten or fifteen cops were helpless.

"Harlem Half-Crazy."

"I saw six people arrested later in the evening. The cops would chase them up on the sidewalk and grab them. All Harlem was half-crazy with excitement. Every one was trying to keep out of the streets, if he wasn't looking for trouble. I think it was a terrible thing, but the police did their share of bad stuff."

The five men accused of being Communist agitators and charged with inciting a riot were:—

DANIEL MILLER, 24, of 1,280 Southern Blvd., the Bronx.

HARRY GORDON, 20, of 699 Prospect Ave., the Bronx, described by police as a City College student.

MURRAY SAMUELS, 19, of 8,621 20th Ave., Brooklyn.

SAMUEL JAMISON, 19, of 917 E. 178th St., the Bronx.

CLAUDIO DIABLO, 39, of 202 W. 132nd St.

The text of the mimeographed circular distributed by the Young Liberators, Communist organization, which police blamed for the serious rioting that followed the incident in the Kress store, follows:—

"Child brutally beaten; woman attacked by boss and cops.

"Child near death.

"Mercilessly Beaten."

"One hour ago a 12-year-old boy was brutally beaten by the management of Kress five-and-ten-cent store.

"He was mercilessly beaten because they thought he had stolen a five-cent knife.

"A Negro woman who sprang to the defense of the boy had her arms broken by these thugs and was then arrested. Then workers, people Negroes and white, protest this lynch attack on innocent Negro people. Demand the release of the boy and woman. Demand the immediate arrest of the manager responsible for this lynch attack.

"Don't buy at Kress'. Stop police brutality in Negro Harlem.

"Issued by Young Liberators."

In another manifesto, signed by the Communist party and the Young Peoples' League, a plea was made "for unity of Negro and white workers—don't let the bosses start race riots in Harlem!"

"The bosses and police are trying to bring lynch spirit right here to Harlem," this circular read. "The bosses would welcome nothing more than a fight between the white and Negro workers of our community so that they may be able to continue to rule over both the Negro and white workers."

Members of the Communist party of America described the Young Liberators as "a mass organization of both Negro and white young people, which is indorsed by the Communist party, but is not a part of the party."

The mob in front of the Kress store had been dispersed, according to police, when the circulars appeared in the streets and another large crowd gathered in 125th St. Miller, it is alleged, mounted a platform and harangued the mob, among whom the word was passed that the Rivera boy had been killed. This rumor is believed to have been caused by the presence of a hearse near the store at the time the first crowd was blocking the street.

Hurl Bricks at Cops.

Several men in the crowd hurled bricks through the windows of the store and soon a riot was under way.

As the police converged on the mob they were met with a barrage of bricks and stones and several of the patrolmen went down. Finding themselves unable to cope with the crowd, which now numbered 2,000, the commanding officers asked for reinforcements. When they arrived the mob was driven back after a stiff hand-to-hand battle.

Another flare-up occurred at Seventh Ave. and 121st St. two hours later when a mob of Negroes attacked an unidentified white man. As police arrived, several shots rang out, and Lyman Quarterman, 34, Negro, of 306 W. 146th St., dropped to the ground with a bullet in the abdomen. eH is expected to die. Police arrested several other men and questioned them in an attmpt to establish who fired the shots.

Beaten Unconscious.

A short time later a crowd attacked a group of white men at 226 W. 125th St. One of the men, who remains unidentified, was beaten into unconsciousness, and is in a serious condition in Harlem Hospital. Douglas Cornelius, 22, of 52 E. 118th St., a Negro, was arrested as one of his assailants.

Another mob surged into Joe Sarnelli's barbershop, in the Hotel Theresa, 2,088 Seventh Ave., and surrounded the proprietor, demanding to know where he kept his razors. When he told them he had only two or three that were in sight they proceeded to beat him up and to wreck the shop. A squad of policemen rescued Sarnelli.

Three other Negroes were wounded by bullets in the rioting, and are in a serious condition. They are Victor Fain, 19, of 100 W. 113th St., Wilmot Hendricks, 29, of 214 W. 146th St., and De Sota Windgate, 34, of 7 E. 114th St.

Riots-1935

New York.

EASTLAND, TEX.
TELEGRAM

Very Little Is Needed To Rouse Mob Spirit

The human race has to cope with many enemies in its long struggle to work out a scheme for peaceful living, but the greatest enemy of all is the mob.

For a perfect picture of the way the mob acts, consider the riot that swept up and down the streets of New York's Harlem the other day.

A colored boy tried to pinch a 10-cent knife from a store counter. A floor-walker collared him and the boy, naturally enough, set up a holler. An excitable woman saw and heard just enough to touch off her motor reactions, and she ran out into the street yelling that the boy had been killed.

Up and down the streets went the cry. Out of poolrooms, lunchrooms, and workshops came angry men, milling in the streets, yelling, looking for someone to fight, afraid, suspicious, and angry. A crowd of a thousand men and women swept into the store, turning things upside down, breaking things, yelling, hitting, fighting.

* * *

Police reserves came, by the hundreds. There were dozens of filghts. Scores of men were cut, beaten, or slugged. More than a hundred were arrested. Thousands of dollars' damage was done to property.

And the juvenile knife-stealer who unintentionally started it all managed to jerk away from his captors during the melee and vanished, utterly unharmed.

You could search the world over without finding a better example than this of the blind, panicky insanity of the mob spirit. Here was a riot of major proportions, an ugly welter of fights that spread all across a populous section of a great city—and all for what?

* * *

Not one of the rioters knew. They could not possibly have hoped to know. It started, literally, from nothing at all; and because men and women were jittery, and gave way to the combined emotions of anger and fear, there was merry Ned to pay.

Now you don't need to think very hard to draw the needed moral from all this. The mob spirit that can seize a few thousand people in one city is the same spirit that can and frequently does seize whole nations, when hatred and panic get together.

It sweeps dictators into power, causes mass executions, concentration camps, sluggings and clubbings; it fills the air with bombing planes and the feilds with infantrymen and sets cruisers loose on the sea lanes; it inflicts more misery and destruction on the earth than a generation can repair.

And all, as in Harlem—for what?

Pensacola, Fla. Journal
April 25, 1935

BEHIND THE RACE RIOTS

As a sidelight on the slum clearance problem, consider the report turned in by the New York Urban League on those recent race riots in Harlem.

The league, after making a study of the whole affair, finds that overcrowding and lack of recreational facilities were chiefly responsible for the trouble. They compelled thousands of people to live under circumstances which set nerves on edge and promoted sullen resentment; need anyone be surprised that it took only a minor incident to touch off a riot?

The same moral applies to every city which has slums—which, of course, means every American city of any size at all. Overcrowding and bad housing are the most expensive luxuries a city can maintain.

A slum clearance program which brought them to an end would be about as paying a proposition as the nation could easily find.

Morristown, Tenn., Gazette
April 22, 1935

WHEN MOBS FIGHT

During recent months property owners have suffered severe losses due to infuriated mobs getting out of control. Sometimes the damage was incidental to fights between opposing factions; at others the enraged crowds were bent upon deliberate destruction of property.

A few weeks ago, New York City experienced its worst race riot in 25 years. More than 4,000 angry men and women surged through the streets of Harlem section, staging pitched battles all night. Scores were injured, a few fatally, and property damage mounted into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Similar riots recently occurred in Shelbyville, Tennessee, and a terrible strike accompanied by loss of heavy property damage happened at the Kohler plant in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The water-front strike in San Francisco, which culminated in a bloody pitched battle, was another deplorable instance.

Police forces are often inadequate in meeting sustained rioting. Property owners are seldom able to cope with such a situation and there seems to be little or nothing they can do about it.

SAVANNAH, GA.
NEWS

APR 8 1935

SPIRIT OF THE MOB

The riot that swept up and down the streets of New York's Harlem recently has been cited as an example of the way a mob acts. The human race has to cope with many enemies in its long struggle to work out a scheme for peaceful living, but the greatest enemy of all is the mob. A colored boy tried to pinch a 10-cent knife from a store counter. A floor walker collared him and the boy let out a few yells. An excitable woman saw and heard just enough to put her in a frenzied condition and she ran out into the street yelling that the boy had been killed. Pandemonium soon prevailed and a crowd of a thousand men and women swept into the store, yelling, fighting and turning things upside down. Police reserves came by the hundreds. There were dozens of fights. More than a hundred were arrested. Thousands of dollars' damage was done to property. Meanwhile, the juvenile knife-stealer managed to jerk away from his captor and vanished unharmed.

In this riot of major proportions none of the participants knew the real circumstances which precipitated the trouble. It started literally from nothing. The mob spirit that can seize a few thousand people in one city is the same spirit that can and sometimes does seize whole nations, when hatred and panic get together. It sweeps dictators into power. It can inflict more misery and destruction than a generation can repair.

NEGROES' CHARGES DENIED BY CORSI

Home Relief Director Lists Aides at Inquiry to Show Harlem Is Represented.

AUDIENCE OF 700 UNRULY

Hearing Adjourned 5 Minutes to Calm Uproar After Frequent Threats by Chairman.

In one of the mos tturbulent sessions of the Mayor's Commission on Conditions in Harlem, Edward Corsi, director of the Home Relief Bureau, asserted yesterday that his department did not discriminate against Negroes. He was the main witness at a hearing of a subcommittee on relief agencies at the Seventh District Municipal Court, 447 West 151st Street.

For nearly four hours Mr. Corsi was subjected to a continuous barrage of questions from indignant Harlem residents who insisted, despite his denial, that Negroes had been victims of relief discrimination.

Several times during the all-day session the crowd of more than 700 Negroes that jammed the courtroom almost got out of hand, and order was restored only by the firm insistence of A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, who presided.

Corsi Lists Negro Aides.

Mr. Corsi opened his testimony by asserting that of the 3,987 workers employed by his bureau for staff work, 765 or 19.18 per cent were Negroes. He asserted that he had always felt that "it was very important to have relief administered in Harlem by Negroes who understood and sympathized with the conditions prevailing in the area."

He presented figures that showed Harlem precincts of the Home Relief Bureau had the highest expenditure of relief per person.

"I have always thought, however," he continued, "that this relief is not adequate, not only for Harlem but for the entire city."

After explaining the operation of the bureau, Mr. Corsi was questioned by those attending the hearing. Often the questioners delivered speeches on the alleged injustices suffered by Negroes on relief. Mr. Randolph had to interrupt them and insist that they ask questions pertaining to the subject of relief.

Mr. Corsi repeated often that he was eliminating discrimination against Negroes not only in his own organization personnel but also in the cases of those receiving relief. Usually his statements were greeted with boos and catcalls from the audience and Chairman Randolps restored order only by threats to adjourn.

Communist Accuses Official.

The longest outburst occurred when James W. Ford, Communist leader, charged that Victor Suarez, Relief Bureau organization head in the Twenty-sixth Precinct, 110th to 120th Streets between Fifth Avenue and St. Nicholas Avenue, had intimidated relief workers, had asserted that "Negroes were inferior to white relief workers," and had "classified all Negroes as fakers." Mr. Ford demanded that Mr. Corsi remove Mr. Suarez from office.

This demand seemed to be approved by all in the audience because all arose to chant "Kick him out! Remove him!" Mr. Corsi replied that he would leave his subordinate's fate as a relief employe in the hands of the commission, which was greeted by cheers from the crowd.

Under questioning by Mr. Ford, Mr. Corsi asserted that he believed that there was "decided discrimination against Negroes in industry in the city," but when asked if such discrimination did not exist in his department he shouted, "No!"

He said that two of the thirty-eight supervisers were Negroes. He asserted that 44,500 families in Harlem, representing about 105,000 persons, were on the relief rolls of his bureau.

In closing his testimony Mr. Corsi admitted that four, five and even six families shared one apartment in Harlem and that the bureau pays rent for only one of those families. He was on the stand during the entire morning session.

Aide Backs Corsi's Story.

The first witness at the afternoon session was Miss Mildred Gordon, Mr. Corsi's assistant director, in charge of Manhattan, who reiterated his denial of discrimination against Negroes. She said the bureau was training many Negroes for administrative posts and that in Precinct 10, an experimental training precinct, three of the ten students studying to become assistant supervisors were Negroes.

The afternoon session was marked by several disturbances. Louis A. Lavelle, a Negro lawyer, arose to ask Miss Gordon several questions that had been answered in the morning by Mr. Corsi. The crowd started an uproar and demanded that he sit down.

The time for adjournment was drawing near and the crowd was anxious to hear from Mr. Saurez. The disorder reached such proportions that Chairman Randolph ordered an adjournment for five minutes. During the intermission there were heated argument between Mr. Lavelle and other Negro attorneys, but order was restored after the five minutes.

When Mr. Saurez took the stand he was greeted by boos, but he shouted that he welcomed this opportunity "to face this situation which has been fomented for a long time and with ulterior motives." He insisted that he had made promotions among the Negroes of his staff and that he considered the Negroes "in every way the equal of white men in the performance of their relief duties."

Chargs Garbling of Statement.

The statement objected to was, according to him, a garbled report of a statement he had made to the effect that in the North the education of Negroes had led them to such occupations as school teachers, lawyers and dentists rather than bookkeepers, and that therefore they were not prepared for high administrative positions of a clerical nature in the bureau.

Considerable bad feeling was shown on both sides when the witness called a questioner, a white former aide, a "liar" and was called "liar" in return. More turmoil followed, but the chairman tactfully allowed a few more perfunctory questions, smoothed over the recriminations and then ordered an adjournment.

Next Saturday there will be a continuation of the hearings of the subcommittee investigating the riots of March 19 and the subcommittee on discrimination in employment at 10 A. M. at the courthouse.

What Was Behind The Explosion?

By CHANNING H. TOBIAS
National Y. M. C. A. Council

Wholly aside from my official connection with several organizations of Harlem, I am writing as one who resides in the center of the recent riot area, who personally witnessed the crashing of the first window in the two hundred block of West 125th street, and who saw many of the incidents that followed on that fateful lnigth of March 19th.

First of all, I want to pay tribute to the police who during the first outbreaks used persuasion rather than bullying methods to quell the uprising. Later the situation grew so serious that stronger methods were resorted to. On the whole it must be said that Commissioner Valentine and his men handled the situation in a way to leave no hostility against the force in the hearts of reasonable Harlem citizens.

In the next place, I think that Mayor LaGuardia showed commendably good judgment in the promptness with which he issued a poster statement expressing confidence in Harlem citizens as a whole and appointing a representative committee of white and Negro citizens to study the underlying causes as well as the riot itself. While the committee might have been more representative in spots, still it is a committee of reputable citizens that can be depended upon to run down the facts and make a dispassionate presentation of them to the Mayor. The main purpose of this statement is to call to the attention of this committee some of the underlying causes as I have observed them.

Unemployment

It is erroneous and superficial to rush to the easy conclusion of District Attorney Dodge and the Hearst newspapers that the whole thing was a communist plot. It is true that communists were in the picture. But what gave them their opportunity? The fact that there were and still are thousands of Negroes standing in enforced idleness on the street corners of Harlem with no prospect of employment while the more favored of their Negro neighbors are compelled to spend their money with business houses largely directed by absentee white owners who employ white workers imported from every part of the city.

It is true that after a hard struggle a few Negroes have been given clerkships in the stores on 125th street, but the attitude of most managers has been that of tolerance under pressure rather than sympathetic cooperation. The whole idea seems to be that it is the God-given right of white business men to reap the profits and the humble responsibility of Negro patrons uncomplainingly to spend the money with which to enrich the owners and provide work for white employees.

The Negro is the last person in America who can afford to condone mob violence; he suffers too much from it. But in all fairness may I not ask reasonable-minded white men if something far worse than this would not have happened long ago if white men had been confronted with a simlar situation. After all, in spite of the frenzied appeal of the Harlem Merchants Association to Governor Lehman for troops, the only loss that has come to Harlem merchants has been some well-insured plate glass windows and some of the shoddy goods that they are accustomed to palm off on unsuspecting Negro customers, while four Negroes have been killed and others may die.

Let the committee spend as little time as possible on the discussion of broken window glasses and get down to a discussion of this basic underlying problem of unemployment.

RELIEF

On this question I find myself taking issue with some of my closest personal friends connected with social and civic organizations who seem quite convinced that there should be no discussion of work and home relief in connection with the riot. I believe that smouldering resentment of some phases of relief administration whether justified or unjustified has helped to create a state of mind in Harlem out of which riots are born.

In some instances the psychology of the investigators, white and Negro, is at fault. It is a well-known fact that too many investigators and administrators look upon people on relief rolls merely as "cases" instead of human beings. Even a hungry man resents being dealt with so impersonally.

Again there is too much of a position on the part of some administrators to make it appear that the relief given is an expression of charity on their own part rather than aid made possible by the taxpayers. In all fairness to the chief

NEGROES' CHARGES DENIED BY CORSI

Home Relief Director Lists Aides at Inquiry to Show Harlem Is Represented.

AUDIENCE OF 700 UNRULY

Hearing Adjourned 5 Minutes to Calm Uproar After Frequent Threats by Chairman.

In one of the mos tturbulent sessions of the Mayor's Commission on Conditions in Harlem, Edward Corsi, director of the Home Relief Bureau, asserted yesterday that his department did not discriminate against Negroes. He was the main witness at a hearing of a subcommittee on relief agencies at the Seventh District Municipal Court, 447 West 151st Street.

For nearly four hours Mr. Corsi was subjected to a continuous barrage of questions from indignant Harlem residents who insisted, despite his denial, that Negroes had been victims of relief discrimination.

Several times during the all-day session the crowd of more than 700 Negroes that jammed the courtroom almost got out of hand, and order was restored only by the firm insistence of A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, who presided.

Corsi Lists Negro Aides.

Mr. Corsi opened his testimony by asserting that of the 3,987 workers employed by his bureau for staff work, 765 or 19.18 per cent were Negroes. He asserted that he had always felt that "it was very important to have relief administered in Harlem by Negroes who understood and sympathized with the conditions prevailing in the area."

He presented figures that showed Harlem precincts of the Home Relief Bureau had the highest expenditure of relief per person.

"I have always thought, however," he continued, "that this relief is not adequate, not only for Harlem but for the entire city."

After explaining the operation of the bureau, Mr. Corsi was questioned by those attending the hearing. Often the questioners delivered speeches on the alleged injustices suffered by Negroes on relief. Mr. Randolph had to interrupt them and insist that they ask questions pertaining to the subject of relief.

Mr. Corsi repeated often that he was eliminating discrimination against Negroes not only in his own organization personnel but also in the cases of those receiving relief. Usually his statements were greeted with boos and catcalls from the audience and Chairman Randolps restored order only by threats to adjourn.

Communist Accuses Official.

The longest outburst occurred when James W. Ford, Communist leader, charged that Victor Suarez, Relief Bureau organization head in the Twenty-sixth Precinct, 110th to 120th Streets between Fifth Avenue and St. Nicholas Avenue, had intimidated relief workers, had asserted that "Negroes were inferior to white relief workers," and had "classified all Negroes as fakers." Mr. Ford demanded that Mr. Corsi remove Mr. Suarez from office.

This demand seemed to be approved by all in the audience because all arose to chant "Kick him out! Remove him!" Mr. Corsi replied that he would leave his subordinate's fate in the hands of the commission, which was greeted by cheers from the crowd.

Under questioning by Mr. Ford, Mr. Corsi asserted that he believed that there was "decided discrimination against Negroes in industry in the city," but when asked if such discrimination did not exist in his department he shouted, "No!"

He said that two of the thirty-eight supervisers were Negroes. He asserted that 44,500 families in Harlem, representing about 105,000 persons, were on the relief rolls of his bureau.

In closing his testimony Mr. Corsi admitted that four, five and even six families shared one apartment in Harlem and that the bureau pays rent for only one of those families. He was on the stand during the entire morning session.

Aide Backs Corsi's Story.

The first witness at the afternoon session was Miss Mildred Gordon, Mr. Corsi's assistant director, in charge of Manhattan, who reiterated his denial of discrimination against Negroes. She said the bureau was training many Negroes for administrative posts and that in Precinct 10, an experimental training precinct, three of the ten students studying to become assistant supervisors were Negroes.

The afternoon session was marked by several disturbances. Louis A. Lavelle, a Negro lawyer, arose to ask Miss Gordon several questions that had been answered in the morning by Mr. Corsi. The crowd started an uproar and demanded that he sit down.

The time for adjournment was drawing near and the crowd was anxious to hear from Mr. Saurez. The disorder reached such proportions that Chairman Randolph ordered an adjournment for five minutes. During the intermission there were heated argument between Mr. Lavelle and other Negro attorneys, but order was restored after the five minutes.

When Mr. Saurez took the stand he was greeted by boos, but he shouted that he welcomed this opportunity "to face this situation which has been fomented for a long time and with ulterior motives." He insisted that he had made promotions among the Negroes of his staff and that he considered the Negroes "in every way the equal of white men in the performance of their relief duties."

Chargs Garbling of Statement.

The statement objected to was, according to him, a garbled report of a statement he had made to the effect that in the North the education of Negroes had led them to such occupations as school teachers, lawyers and dentists rather than bookkeepers, and that therefore they were not prepared for high administrative positions of a clerical nature in the bureau.

Considerable bad feeling was shown on both sides when the witness called a questioner, a white former aide, a "liar" and was called "liar" in return. More turmoil followed, but the chairman tactfully allowed a few more perfunctory questions, smoothed over the recriminations and then ordered an adjournment.

Next Saturday there will be a continuation of the hearings of the subcommittee investigating the riots of March 19 and the subcommittee on discrimination in employment at 10 A. M. at the courthouse.

What Was Behind The Explosion?

By CHANNING H. TOBIAS
National Y. M. C. A. Council

Wholly aside from my official connection with several organizations of Harlem, I am writing as one who resides in the center of the recent riot area, who personally witnessed the crashing of the first window in the two hundred block of West 125th street, and who saw many of the incidents that followed on that fatefu lnigth of March 19th.

First of all I want to pay tribute to the police who during the first outbreaks used persuasion rather than bullying methods to quell the uprising. Later the situation grew so serious that stronger methods were resorted to. On the whole it must be said that Commissioner Valentine and his men handled the situation in a way to leave no hostility against the force in the hearts of reasonable Harlem citizens.

In the next place, I think that Mayor LaGuardia showed commendably good judgment in the promptness with which he issued a poster statement expressing confidence in Harlem citizens as a whole and appointing a representative committee of white and Negro citizens to study the underlying causes as well as the riot itself. While the committee might have been more representative in spots, still it is a committee of reputable citizens that can be depended upon to run down the facts and make a dispassionate presentation of them to the Mayor. The main purpose of this statement is to call to the attention of this committee some of the underlying causes as I have observed them.

Unemployment

It is erroneous and superficial to rush to the easy conclusion of District Attorney Dodge and the Hearst newspapers that the whole thing was a communist plot. It is true that communists were in the picture. But what gave them their opportunity? The fact that there were and still are thousands of Negroes standing in enforced idleness on the street corners of Harlem with no prospect of employment while the more favored of their Negro neighbors are compelled to spend their money with business houses largely directed by absentee white owners who employ white workers imported from every part of the city.

It is true that after a hard struggle a few Negroes have been given clerkships in the stores on 125th street, but the attitude of most managers has been that of tolerance under pressure rather than sympathetic cooperation. The whole idea seems to be that it is the God-given right of white business men to reap the profits and the humble responsibility of Negro patrons uncomplainingly to spend the money with which to enrich the owners and provide work for white employees.

The Negro is the last person in America who can afford to condone mob violence; he suffers too much from it. But in all fairness may I not ask reasonable-minded white men if something far worse than this would not have happened long ago if white men had been confronted with a similar situation.

After all, in spite of the frenzied appeal of the Harlem Merchants Association to Governor Lehman for troops, the only loss that has come to Harlem merchants has been some well-insured plate glass windows and some of the shoddy goods that they are accustomed to palm off on unsuspecting Negro customers, while four Negroes have been killed and others may die.

Let the committee spend as little time as possible on the discussion of broken window glasses and get down to a discussion of this basic underlying problem of unemployment.

RELIEF

On this question I find myself taking issue with some of my closest personal friends connected with social and civic organizations who seem quite convinced that there should be no discussion of work and home relief in connection with the riot. I believe that smoldering resentment of some phases of relief administration whether justified or unjustified has helped to create a state of mind in Harlem out of which riots are born.

In some instances the psychology of the investigators, white and Negro, is at fault. It is a well-known fact that too many investigators and administrators look upon people on relief rolls merely as "cases" instead of human beings. Even a hungry man resents being dealt with so impersonally. Then again there is too much of a disposition on the part of some administrators to make it appear that the relief given is an expression of charity on their own part rather than aid made possible by the taxpayers. In all fairness to the chief [illegible] it must be said that they [illegible] desire to remedy these [illegible]ions.

A committee of the Citizens' League for Fairplay, of which I was chairman called upon Mr. Corsi of the Home Relief Bureau to acquaint him with the rising volume of complaints on relief administration in the Harlem area. We suggested that it would make for better understanding and more effective service if he would appoint a Negro associate on his staff. He assured us that he thought well of the idea and would give it consideration.

In the light of what has happened since our visit, I would renew this appeal to Mr. Corsi and direct a similar appeal to the Work Relief Administrator. Just as the appearance and service of Lieutenant Battle had a salutary effect upon the riot situation from a police point of view, so would the presence of Negroes in positions of high official responsibility in the Relief Administrations reassure the Negro masses.

Finally, let me say that I have the utmost confidence in the ability of the people of all races in New York City to work out their problems of relationships satisfactorily when these basic economic and social questions are dealt with intelligently and dispassionately.

Riots - 1935 -

New York

NEW YORK SUN

MAY 4 1935

Negroes Jeer at Harlem Hearing

Disorders Are So Frequent That Chairman Threatens to Close Sessions.

Jeers, boos and catcalls from the audience punctuated the testimony of witnesses today at the public hearing before the subcommittee of the Mayor's commission investigating conditions in Harlem. The attitude of the audience was so hostile, and disorder so frequent, that Arthur Garfield Hays, chairman of the subcommittee, threatened to adjourn the public hearing for a private session. The hearing was held in the Washington Heights Municipal Court.

Much of the disturbances centered around Samuel J. Battle, the only Negro lieutenant on the police force, who was accused by one Negro of being a stool pigeon for white policemen.

Several times Mr. Hays, pounding vigorously for order, rebuked the Negro spectators who filled the court room, when they broke into boos and catcalls as white witnesses took the stand.

Says Negroes Were Barred.

Further testimony concerning racial discrimination also was heard at today's hearing. One witness, Joseph William Fox, a Negro licensed masseur, whose credentials include a recommendation from James M. Cox, former presidential candidate, testified that he was told by an official of the works relief division that no Negroes were being employed.

Fox, who also is a boxing instructor, said he had been unemployed since last September, and that he applied for a job at the division of hospitals of work relief, at the Port Authority Building, only to be told by William J. Flanagan, in charge of that division, that "we are not putting on any colored people now."

Fox testified that Flanagan had said he was "not interested in any letters of recommendation from Negro doctors," nor in the letter of recommendation from James M. Cox, Democratic Presidential candidate in 1920, who wrote that he had known Fox for thirty years.

Has Many References.

Fox also produced letters of recommendation from the Hospital for Joint Diseases, the Athletic Association of Washington and Jefferson College, and the Lake Placid Athletic Club. Fox told the subcommittee that he was willing to take any job offered and had even applied for domestic work. In the meantime, he receives $5.50 every two weeks from the Home Relief Bureau.

The outburst against Lieut. Battle came when Charles Romney, Negro secretary of the Civil Rights Protective Association, arose and insisted that the investigating body give further assurance that witnesses would not be molested by the police.

Romney, a frequent objector in the hearings, said he had in mind his own case when, about ten days ago, he was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge and received a sixty-day suspended sentence from Magistrate Guy R. Van Amringe. Romney charged that his arrest and conviction were framed by Lieut. Battle because of his connection with the hearings.

Accuses Policeman.

"He told the Magistrate that he would like to give me a six months' sentence twice a year to keep me from testifying here," Romney shouted.

Mr. Hays then announced that his committee was interested primarily in an investigation of the events leading up to the Harlem riot of March 19.

A Negro woman who arose in the audience said that she knew of a woman who was a witness to the events in the Kresge store, where the riot started, and when Mr. Hays asked the name of the woman Romney shouted: "We won't release the name of this woman as long as you keep this police stoolpigeon here." He pointed to Lieut. Battle, who was sitting close by.

Others demanded that the committee go into the Romney case immediately.

"You'll have to concede," replied Mr. Hays, "that the commission has a reasonable amount of intelligence and we insist on running things our own way. If we have any more interruptions from the floor I will adjourn the meeting."

This statement was greeted with boos.

"Any one who doesn't approve of this hearing may leave the room," Mr. Hays added.

NEAR RIOT AT HEARING ON HOME RELIEF

Stormiest Session Of Riot Inquiry Body Held On Saturday

CORSI ON STAND

Officials Deny Negroes Are Discriminated Against By Them

Amid incessant confusion, created by an audience definitely antagonistic, and punctuated at frequent intervals by shouts of "Lousy rat!" "Damned liar!" "Make him answer the question!" and "We want the truth!", the subcommittee on relief agencies and practices of the Mayor's Commission on Conditions in Harlem heard heads of the Home Relief Bureau in this city deny charges of discrimination hurled at them by numerous local agencies and organizations last Saturday in the Municipal Courthouse in West 151st street. The testimony of Edward A. Corsi, director of the Home Relief Division of the Emergency Bureau, Miss Mildred Gordon, Manhattan borough supervisor and Victor Suarez, administrator of the 26th precinct, consumed the entire day.

Outbursts from the crowd of spectators were frequent throughout the hearing, the disorder rising to such a pitch about half an hour before the close, that a five minutes recess was called by A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and member of the Mayor's Commission, who presided.

Both Corsi and Miss Gordon were subjected to rigorous questioning by lawyers representing local organizations, Corsi being kept on the stand for about four hours and prolonging the morning session a full hour. Miss Gordon was placed on the stand in the afternoon and remained there for about two and a half hours. The enforced recess occurred just before Miss Gordon was excused, and was precipitated when Attorney Louis A. Lavelle, local lawyer, attempted to question her concerning certain details of the Bureau which had been already explained during the morning session by Corsi.

The crowd, impatiently awaiting the calling of Suarez to the stand, took exception to Lavelle's cross examination, terming it a waste of time, and called upon the lawyer to retire for the moment. When Lavelle refused to heed the demands of the audience, the general disorder increased and Chairman Randolph was forced to declare five minutes recess so that order might be restored. During the recess, Lavelle was prevailed upon to withdraw but only after a heated argument with a number of the other lawyers.

Corsi, on the stand, declared that there was absolutely no discrimination in his bureau, although he admitted his opinion that appropriations for the carrying on of the work all over the city were inadequate. Declaring that the rent problem all over the city was an outsanding example of this, he strenuously denied that rent allowances in Harlem were made lower than in any other section. One of the audience, a man named Jones, rose and assailed the bureau on the rent problem, declaring that he had been receiving only $14 per month instead of the $16 which he was supposed to be getting. The extra $2, said Jones, had been promised to him by the precinct administrator whom had been reached only after great difficulty, but nothing more had been heard of the matter as yet.

Denies Discrimination

Attacked on the question of race discrimination in the employment in the bureau, Corsi declared that he had always fought against such discrimination. He pointed out that out of the 105,000 families on relief in Manhattan, 32,000 were Negroes, and that the percentage of Negroes employed on the staff of 4,000 was 19.18 per cent. Two of the thirty-eight supervisors in the city, he added, are Negroes.

Among those who harried Corsi continually with questions of policy of the bureau were Charles T. Romney, secretary of the Civil Rights Protective Association who has been one of the most active participants in all of the hearings thus far, James W. Ford, Harlem Communist leader, Bernard Ribeck, representing the Home Relief Employees' Association, Robert T. Bess, representing the Consolidated Tenants' League and the Harlem Civic Association, Arnold Johnson, organizer of the Relief Workers organization, Clarence Wilson of the Citizens' League for Fairplay, Inc., Attorney Myles A. Paige, L. F. Coles, and several others. Rev. William Lloyd Imes, pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church, asserted that he in concert with several other leading citizens of Harlem had managed to see Corsi to ask for a share of the employment in the bureau for Negroes only after several attempts. When asked to name some of those who were with him, Imes named Rev. John H. Johnson, Dr. Channing H. Tobias and Fred R. Moore as those whom he remembered particularly well.

Asserting that he had always had the interests of the Negroes at heart, Corsi declared that, immediately after he assumed his position, he arranged a meeting at the Urban League with a committee which, he said assured him that they comprised the leading citizens of Harlem and could speak for all Harlem. When pressed, he admitted that he could not remember any of those who were present, but confessed that none of those named nor any representatives of the unemployed that he could remember had been present.

On the question of the policies of the bureau, in reference to which, statements attributed to several officials in the bureau particularly Suarez, were quoted as indicating prejudice, Corsi said that any of those matters when brought to him had been investigated until he had received assurance from the accused official. This occasioned an outburst from the audience which increased as James Ford arose and again charged Suarez with stating

CITE JIM-CROWISM AT RIOT INQUIRY

State Legislature Urged To Adopt Measures To Bar Discrimination

Continuing their investigations into conditions surrounding the rioting in Harlem last month, the Mayor's Commitee heard a procession of witnesses take the stand at the Municipal Court in West 151st street last Saturday and testify to the existence of "Jim Crow" practices in this city.

As a result of the testimony, the immediate passage of statutes by the State legislature to correct these evils, a move urged by the witnesses, was promised by the committee and pledges of support in this action were received from representatives from many of the organizations present.

The feature of the day's proceedings, which were presided over by Tax Commissioner Hubert T. Delany, was the testimony of Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, who accused the city, state and federal governments of discriminating against Negro workers in their relief projects and urged that labor unions cease Negro discrimination and that white merchants doing business in Negro localities cease the practice of employing white people in large majorities.

Considered indicative of the general attiude was the surprising fact that the testimony of Thomas, known to be an enemy of Communism, evoked frequent outbursts of applause from the crowd of some 600, three fourths colored, which packed the courtroom. Chairman Delany was constrained to ask for order on numerous occasions, the audience exhibiting a turbulence which was even greater than usual.

Blanshard Appears

Appearing at the hearing, Paul Blanshard, Commissioner of accounts, voluntarily took the stand in an effort to clear his office and the LaGuardia administration of any imputed wrongdoing in the hiring of whites rather than Negroes by companies having city contracts.

"We have set a precedent," said Blanshard, "by which the city has the right to withdraw if the company either refuses collective bargaining or employs rocial preference. This precedent was established in the case of a bus franchise in Queens and it has become a policy of the administration. The power to force freedom for collective bargaining and workers of all races is more important than all the talk in the world."

Blanshard also declared that he was one hundred per cent against all racial discrimination and added that he was sure that Mayor LaGuardia was also. When asked by Robert Minor, noted Communist leader and vice president of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, what the city policy would be regarding mixed racial populations in the new housing projects, Blanshard replied that since the subject was not in his department he did not know.

James H. Hubert, executive secretary of the New York Urban League, declared that 65 per cent of the Negroes in this city were jobless and that 14 per cent of the total unemployed in the city were Negroes although the Negro population of the city was only about 4 per cent.

The complexion of Negro girls as a factor in their employment was discussed by Mrs. Cecilia Saunders, executive secretary of the West 137th street YWCA who declared that it was a general custom among the larger stores to abstain from employing Negro help, even in Harlem, unless the girls were very "fair. The practice of hiring colored girls as domestics, their pay consisting of only rooms and board was described by the witness who asserted that her organization had fought continually against it. This practice was later characterized by Chairman Delany as "peonage".

Crosswaithe On Stand

Frank R. Crosswaithe, prominent colored Socialist leader and organizer of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, testified that [illegible] of the 1,000 employees on the [illegible]ew Federal Courthouse were [illegible]oes and that of the 700 men n[illegible] work on the new municipal [illegible]cture just south of the Tombs was a Negro and he merely [illegible]ed a pail of water for the o[illegible]

Fr[illegible] stimony of discrimination [illegible] Negroes was offered by [illegible]. White, a member of the [illegible]echanics Association, [illegible]iate of the American [illegible] Labor, who cited a [illegible] Brentwood, N. J. where Negro bricklayers were hired after much protest, fired two days later, rehired when the protest was again raised and then dropped one by one until but two out of fifteen remained on the payroll. According to White, companies make it a practice of hiring one Negro, usually the darkest one they can find, and placing him in a prominent position on the job to refute any charges of discrimination.

Rev. William Lloyd Imes, pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church, and well known figure in Harlem, also took the stand and told of the activities of the Citizens' League for Fairplay of which he admitted he was a member, against stores in West 125th street last summer, through which a number of girls had been placed in jobs in several of the stores. The stores had later dropped most of the girls, he declared, using the excuse that business was slack.

Judge Kernochan Writes

Responsibility for the rioting was laid squarely to conditions of overcrowding and lack of adequate recreational and convalescent facilities in Harlem by Chief Justice Kernochan of Special Sessions, in a foreword to the annual report of the Urban League made public Saturday. Justice Kernochan is chairman of the executive committee of the league.

"Conditions facing the Negro in New York are infinitely worse today than those which confronted him at the establishment of the Urban League fifteen years ago," declared Kernochan. "The Negro in New York is not any more or a lawbreaker than others. He is probably much more patriotic than many of our foreign groups—for it must be borne in mind that America is the only home he has. Stories of employment in New York and easy living in Harlem, have caused hordes of agricultural laborers to leave the farms and concentrate here."

According to the report, the League is expecting a still greater influx of Negroes to New York from southern rural sections despite the lack of employment here and in an effort to reverse the tide is attempting to help unemployed Negroes in New York to move back to the farms

---

that "Negroes were unfit to hold clerical positions."

In response to vociferous demands from the crowd, Corsi finally placed the matter in the hands of the Commission, declaring that the removal of any of the officials would rest upon their decision. This was finally accepted by the audience.

Miss Gordon Assailed

Due to the extension of time made for the continued cross examination of Corsi till 2:00 p. m. the reconvening of the hearing was set for 3:00 o'clock, at which time Miss Gordon took the stand. Immediately assailed by the relentless questioners, Miss Gordon, attempted to outline briefly the policies of the bureau. She said:

"There is no discrimination against Negroes but there is a very definite misunderstanding on the part of the residents of Harlem on this matter." Denying that there was any "tactful elimination" of Negroes from key positions in the bureau, she insisted that jobs were assigned and promotions made solely upon the basis of merit.

She was interrupted at a point in her testimony by one of her inquisitors who demanded that she remove some gum from her mouth as it interfered with her speech. When Chairman Randolph, after a conference with Miss Gordon, explained that she had a very "dry throat" and found it necessary to keep a lozenge in her mouth, another of her examiners volunteered to get her a glass of water which he immediately did.

A short period of confusion was created also when C. B. Jenkins, local resident, suddenly raised strenuous objections to the presence of several policemen in the courtroom. After some confusion, order was finally restored once again when Chairman Randolph explained that the policemen were there in accordance with the fire regulations and not as any attempt. The remainder of Miss Gordon's testimony was concerned mainly at intimidation as Jenkins hinted. wih details and figures of the bureaus activities, elaborating upon the testimony given by Corsi in the morning.

Suarez Denies Bias

Suarez was called to the stand immediately after Miss Gordon left, following the short recess caused by the disturbance, and immediately declared that the charges of discrimination made against him during the day's proceedings were the result of antagonism fomented against him for ulterior motives. Denying that he had ever declared that Negroes were unfit to hold clerical positions, he claimed that his statement had been distorted.

"What I said," asserted Suarez, "was that the Negroes here in the north were mostly educated along professional lines, such as doctors, dentists, lawyers and teachers, and as such, were not as well qualified to do the office work as whites who had been able to study bookkeeping, accountancy, etc." He declared that the higher salaried positions in his precinct, which extends from 110th to 120th streets and from Fifth to St. Nicholas avenues, were predominantly Negro, and added that since his assuming the office of administrator in July 1934, he had made many promotions among his Negro staff.

Possibilities of the hearing ending in a free for all loomed when Abraham Moscow, white, former worker in Suarez's office rose and declared that Suarez had declared in his presence that Harlem Negroes are fakers and not worth bothering about.

"That's a deliberate untruth!" shouted Suarez, jumping to his feet.

"Do you remember saying to me, 'I guess that'll fix you, you lousy rat?'"

"I don't recall it, but you must have been reading my mind," snarled Suarez, precipitating an uproar in the room. For several moments there ensued an uproar, with Suarez and Moscow shouting "Damned liar" at each other, Chairman Randolph futilely rapping for order and the crowd out of their seats and hurling imprecations at Suarez and any other Home Relief official present. Quiet was finally obtained and Chairman Randolph, after allowing two or three more quiet questions to be asked of Suarez, excused him from the stand with his promise to return at the next hearing of the sub-committee which is scheduled to take place on May 11. The hearing was then adjourned.

Riots-1935

New York.

Sanford, Fla. Herald
March 29, 1935

Harlem's Negroes

Time was when Southern negroes were lured to Northern cities by glowing promises of easy work, high wages, and so-called racial equality. Colored journals having wide circulation among Southern negroes, industrial propaganda from the North, and even brothers and sisters who had strayed away from home, brought back glowing reports of the blackamoo's gay white way.

As a result thousands of the South's best workers of the "cotton nigger" type heard the call and trekked northward. They settled in Northern cities from Boston to Chicago, and though wholly unsuited to the climatic and industrial conditions, became convinced that a great future lay before them. Pampered, betrayed, propagandized to the limit, they were all to become Duke Ellingtons, Jack Johnsons, or Paul Robesons. But all is not gold that glitters.

The negro district of New York City is known as Harlem. A New York newspaper characterized it the other day as the "hungriest, unhealthiest and most wretched section of New York." There, last week, hundreds of negroes, stirred up by white communist tirades over the alleged beating of a negro boy shoplifter, which never occurred, a race riot ensued, in which several persons were killed and scores injured.

As a consequence of this incident, welfare workers began an investigation of the Harlem district disclosing conditions which would not be tolerated in the most backward of Southern communities. According to the report of the investigation committee "Harlem has suffered more during the past few years than any other part of the world." There are more than 250,000 negroes now living in Harlem and only 12,500 have employment of any kind.

With unemployment has come the attending evils—infant mortality, disease, undernourishment—and thus in Harlem the death and disease rates, always the highest in the city, have jumped during the depression further and further above the rates for greater New York. In 1929 the death rate for New York City was 11 for each 1,000 of population. Now, after five years of depression, Harlem's death rate has risen to 18.15 while the city rate has dropped.

Contributory to disease to as great an extent as undernourishment are the housing conditions of Harlem. The buildings on the whole are too cold in winter, too hot in summer, too small at all times, and in many cases devoid of heat, hot water or light. The rents are high out of all proportion, thanks to the racial barriers set up around the district. Many of the homes are firetraps. Many should have been condemned long ago, for according to John E. Nail, Harlem's most successful real estate owner, they are "not fit for dogs."

The natural results of such conditions are the inevitable crime, disease, and discontent. Harlem is said to be a veritable hotbed of communism. Few if any of the negroes now there are satisfied with their conditions. After reading the report of the welfare committee, it would seem that the really smart negroes were the ones who resisted the lure of the North a few years ago and stayed at home where their problems are better understood and appreciated.

New York Mirror

APR 1 1935

Why Did This Happen?

One of the many broken store windows which greeted the grey Harlem dawn after that night last week when Riot! whirled through everyone's head. In the accompanying series of articles, the Daily Mirror probes deep into Harlm life, seeks to find the real cause of the outbreak.

Rioting In Harlem National Problem, Writer Declares

THE round of public hearings on the causes of the Harlem Red-Race Riot have begun. A distinguished multi-racial committee seeks also for a means to prevent another outbreak of blood and pillage like that which burst on Harlem March 19. Will this convocation end by laying the responsibility at the doorstep of Moscow's Kremlin? Or will it put its blessings on a scattering of convictions of individual rioters? Harlem's own have their own conclusions on both the cause and prevention of riot, and the Daily Mirror, in this series beginning today, will present their case.

By JAMES WHITTAKER.

If you drop 300,000 people out of the bottom of the economic set-up you have to expect a splash.

This afterthought, and the still more disquieting one that Harlem's Red Race Riots of the night of March 19 may be but the mild prelude to worse to come form the consensus which the Daily Mirror has found—where it should be sought—among Harlemites themselves.

As for the ready-made theories that race hatred and communism turned 4,000 amiable Harlemites

With Lieut. Battles is Lino Rivera, over whose reported "beating" riots started. But—was that THE cause? Read the survey....

into the frenizied horde of saboteurs and killers which poured like volcanic lava into 125th street on Harlem's evil night, not one responsible and honest opinion could be found in their support.

Lester A. Walton, the Harlemite whose writings in the old New York World on the problems of his race gained him the League of Nations assignment to study Liberia in 1933, was the first of the score interviewed to get down to cases.

"If somebody has got to lose a job, let it be a colored man," he reduced to a formula the condition which, he claims, is national now where the colorde race in concerned—~~and~~ incidentally, he pointed out, made the Harlem riot a national and not a local incident.

"I konw what you want," he accurately guessed the mind of the Mirror man who found him in his apartment in the Dunbar, the John D. Rockefeller $3,000,000 experiment at 150 St. and 8th Ave. in modern segreation housing.

The End of the Harlem Riot...

"You want sentiment about Harlem. Something about the good old days when Lenox Ave. was anybody's continuous vaudeville show for the price of a nickel street-car ride. Florence Mills and bootleg champagne for those who wanted their Harlem special.

"But, stranger, that Harlem just isn't anymomre. And that Harlem being gone, there's no Harlem left at all.

"What has happened to Hrlem is freakish. It has not followed known economic laws. Depression didn't hit Harlem, for instance, like it has hit large white economic groups, like the coal-miners who are pushed back inch by inch, resisting all the way. Depression hit Harlem like a steam-hammer hitting a soap bubble. At the first whiff of hard times, the whole Harlem set-up was gone, "It' been gone nearly five years now.'

LESSON DRAWN FROM RIOT

"And I say that, far from being evidence of feather-brained lack of self restraint, the riot last week dramatized the reverse—the self-restraint that has held Harlem in leash for over three horrible years. What other national or regional or racial group of mankind anywhere would remain hopeless and foodless and voiceless that long? What saint would? What wolf?"

Walton illustrated his paradox with a reference to the tale of Marie Antionette and her historic bull: "Let them eat cake."

"In effect, New York's friendly attitude toward Harlem has always been: 'Let 'em eat cake!' Well, Harlem did. And now there is no cake, nor bread, nor hope."

Like all honest thinkers on the American problem of race, Walton takes into account the chronic paradox which places the colored economist on the losing end of wto propositions; the one that, if the colored man clings to what he has, he will get nothing better; the other that, if he loses what he has, he will get something worse.

"When you see the misery which engulfs Harlem today," he illustrates, "you would have to be a flinty theorist indeed not to wish that it might be as it was a few years back, when my race had a practical monopoly on the service trades.

"Who in Harlem does not remember now with regret such days of mass rejoicing as the annual date of the getaway of the 'Harlem-Florida' Special — the chartered train which took the house staffs to The Breakers and the Royal Ponciana down in Miami?

"That train would be almost completely enveloped in flags and confetti streamers and half of Harlem would be on hand to see the boys and girls off. It all went much deeper than mere fun. It was Harlem economics. Take the wages and tips the Florida contingent reaped, plus the takings of the group sent up to Saratoga in the Fall, plus the Pullman porter take and the half-dozen other service-trade sources of income, and Harlem's year was made.

"And that brings me to my point. Which is this: When the scourge of depression was on us, when the breath of the wolf struck our necks, then the service trades suffered an invasion from above.

"All over America it was the same. It may have cost something to the prides of white girls and boys to clamor for the menial jobs hitherto alloted to coolred workers —but a job of any kind was less humiliating than the dole.

"Some of the incidents of that process of dropping an entire race 'out of the bottom' are already verses in the saga of our folk. There was the big department store in Birmingham, for instance. For forty years it had been staffed exclusively by Negroes, trained and skilled and molded into their jobs, White Birminghamites began going 'on relief.' A public clamor arose.

"Why should whites be paying for their food at Birmingham grocery stores with relife vouchers while Negroes were still able to pay cash? The pressure grew and violence was near, reluctantly, the store managers knuckled under. Out of the bottom they must go!"

All this Harlem agitation against white shop-keepers who employ no Negro help while catering almost exclusively to Negro trade traces back to Birmingham, not Moscow.

"Harlem needed no interpreters from Russia of the message from a closer home. What can be expected but protest and even revolt from a peoiple which survived and fitted itself to the dictate that there was no room for them at the top and has been rewarded for humility by the notification that neither is there room for them at the bottom now?"

Everyone is not "red" that revolts. Gleaning from conservative Harlem publications, the Daily Mirror tomorrow will quote utterances astoundingly and militantly "subversive," though the Harlem names appended to them are those of Harlem's conservative best.

Considerably shaken prisoners are solemnly herded into the patrol wagon, after police had picked them up for rioting, on that horrible night when all Harlem temporarily went mad. Today, the Daily Mirror seeks to know WHY!

New York Evening Post

MAR 30 1935

The Way to Face the Racial Problem

To the Editor of New York Post:

Sir—The rioting in Harlem has brought to the attention of the people of New York the lack of employment under which the Negro suffers. A committee has been appointed to investigate conditions and make recommendations.

As one who has studied the condition of the Negro in New York and who contributed to the knowledge on this subject by a study, "Half A Man," may I say that there is nothing new about Harlem conditions. The widespread discrimination practiced against Negroes by stores, offices, factories, was true twenty-five years ago as it is true today.

If we want to help the colored people living in this city, who are ready to work and who have been educated so that they are fitted to take positions, we should offer them positions regardless of their race. I am convinced that there is a large body of citizens in New York who not only would not resent seeing Negroes in offices and in stores, but would welcome the fact that they are taking their rightful position in this city. MARY WHITE OVINGTON.

Columbia, S. C. Record
March 28, 1935

Mob Violence in New York.

Tuesday of last week a 16-year-old Puerto Rican boy stole a 10-cent penknife in a Harlem five and ten cents store. He was caught.

A negro woman saw store employees search the thief and becoming hysterical ran out to the street shouting that the boy was being beaten, although he was not harmed. Soon the word got about that a negro boy had been killed.

A mob gathered and within a short time the street was overrun with 3,000 angry negroes who smashed store windows, attacked whites, fought the police, looted and fired buildings. In the riot more than 100 men, black and white, were injured. Three were killed. Groups of negroes posted themselves on roofs and sniped at the whites; the fighting went on for almost 12 hours.

The boy, who was the not so innocent cause of it all, escaped unhurt in the confusion.

It was just such a display as ends up, both North and South, in lynchings and is of course especially unfortunate for the reason that the offenders were negroes. And the negro race, supplying more than its share of the lynching victims, has most to lose by handicapping the efforts of those who are concerned that law and order shall prevail over the mob spirit.

William C. Dodge, the New York district attorney, of course blames the whole thing on the Communists. They are behind it all, he explains, and he proposes to let them know that "they cannot come into this country and upset the laws."

In the unsual lynching in South or West the crime —it is murder—is ordinarily blamed upon "persons unknown to the jury." In New York it is the "Communists." Both "verdicts" are evasions of responsibility and neither of them is a substitute for enforcement of the law.

Riots-1935

New York

NEW YORK TIMES

MAR 20 1935

Police Shoot Into Rioters; Kill Negro in Harlem Mob

3,000 Storm Store After Boy Knife Thief, 16, Is Reported Lynched—Several Shot—Many Felled by Stones.

A 16-year-old Negro boy stole a ten-cent knife from a West 125th Street store yesterday afternoon, precipitating a riot in which roving bands of Negro men and women smashed 200 plate-glass store windows, looted stores, assaulted white pedestrians and forcibly resisted 500 policemen patrolling streets in an area of more than a square mile.

The trouble began about 4 P. M. and, after a short lull, it flared up again shortly after 6 P. M., when a crowd of 3,000, mostly Negroes, went on a rampage. After seventy-five mounted and foot patrolmen and the crews of radio cars had succeeded in dispersing the mob, the roving bands of trouble-makers, mistakenly believing that the 10-year-old boy had been beaten to death for his filching of the candy ranged the Harlem streets, hurling missiles through store windows.

The situation took on an uglier aspect several hours after the rioting began with the fatal wounding of a Negro named Lyman Quarterman, 34, of 306 West 146th Street, during a disturbance at 121st Street and Seventh Avenue. Quarterman died of a bullet wound in the abdomen at 1 o'clock this morning in the Harlem Hospital. The police launched an investigation to determine who fired the fatal shot. Several others were shot.

With the police holding their riot guns in readiness for immediate action, the marauding bands took advantage of their unwillingness to shoot by hurling stones at them. Many policemen were hurt by flying brickbats.

By 2:30 o'clock this morning the police had made a total of fifty arrests and they announced that the majority of the prisoners would be charged with inciting to riot. At that hour the excitement had died down except for occasional instances of minor disturbances. The strong police guard, however, was ordered to remain on duty throughout the night. It was announced that the police would launch a general investigation of the riot at once. The police estimated that 100 persons had been injured.

The riot became so serious about 9 P. M. that Chief Inspector John J. Seery and Deputy Chief Inspector David J. McAuliffe, the borough police commander, took charge of the small army of police. Meanwhile, reports of the smashing of store windows and sporadic cases of looting continued to come in. In many instances the merchandise of fruit and grocery and butchers' shops was taken out of the broken windows and strewn on the sidewalks.

It was the persistent rumor that the boy had been so severely beaten that he had died that kept the spirits of the rioters inflamed. The sight of a hearse in the vicinity about 7 P. M. gave rise to the belief that it had come to take the boy's body away, although the hearse was bound for a house in the neighborhood.

However, the rumor that the boy had been beaten was false, according to the police and the management of the S. H. Kress store at 256 West 125th Street, between Seventh and Eighth Avenues.

Chief Inspector Seery issued orders to locate the youth and prove that he was unharmed. The young man, Lino Rivera, 16, was located at his home at 272 Manhattan Avenue at 3 o'clock this morning and taken to the West 123d Street station for questioning. The police said he readily admitted the theft of the pocket knife, but said he had not been harmed in any way. The police said he would not be held.

Clerks Bitten by Boy.

There were about 500 customers, mostly Negroes, in the store when Rivera filched the knife from a counter. The manager, Jackson Smith, and two clerks, Charles Hurley, 28, of 2,875 Sedgwick Avenue, the Bronx, and Stephen Urban, 39, of 4,359 Gunther Avenue, the Bronx, closed in on the lad and chased him to the rear of the store, where they caught him. According to the police, the boy, in struggling to get away, bit Urban and Hurley so severely on the hands that they had to have medical treatment.

The customers in the store were thrown into a fever of excitement, during which Rivera left. Smith decided that it would be wise not to press any charge against the boy but to spirit him into a rear office and then to let him go home after the excitement had died down.

Quickly the word spread that the boy had been taken into the rear office to be beaten. In a few moments the customers went on the rampage, overturning counters, strewing merchandise on the floor and shouting.

Patrolman Timothy Shannon, who happened to be near by, ran into the store and, seeing that it would be more than a one-man job to restore order, telephoned the West 123d Street station. Meanwhile, some one else had telephoned police headquarters that there was a riot in the store. Two emergency squads swarmed into the store shortly afterward. By 5:30 P. M. the store was cleared. Order appeared to have been restored and the police left.

Agitators Stir Up Crowd.

A few minutes before the store closed at 6 P. M., a group of agitators arrived. Two white and two Negro pickets paraded back and forth in front of the store, bearing placards of the Young Liberators League with the inscription: "Kress Brutality Beats Negro Child" and "Kress Brutality Beats and Seriously Injures Negro Child."

This was the spark that set off another flare-up. Several hundred persons collected. Daniel Miller, 24, unemployed, of 1,287 Southern Boulevard, the Bronx, mounted a hastily made platform and launched into a harangue. Miller was later arrested on a charge of inciting to riot. Others arrested with him on charges of acting in concert were Murray Samuels, 19, unemployed, of 1,821 Twentieth Street, Brooklyn; Samuel Jameson, 19, of 917 East 178th Street, the Bronx, and Claudio Diabolo, 39, a Negro mechanic, of 202 West 132d Street.

A few moments after Miller began his harangue, the crowd had swollen to 1,000 and was growing steadily. Once again the rumor spread that the Rivera boy had been killed. Persons in the crowd threw bottles through two large plate-glass windows in the front of the store and another outbreak began.

Squads of mounted and foot patrolmen, five radio cars and emergency men came on the run, charging into the crowd, which by this time numbered about 3,000.

Many ran at the sight of the police uniforms, but a large number gathered at the rear of the store, which runs through the block to 124th Street. While they were collecting bricks and other missiles with which to pelt the police, a hearse drove up and stopped at a house opposite the rear of the store.

A woman shrilled, "There's the hearse come to take the boy's body out of the store."

Missiles Injure Policemen.

The crowd's fury became white-hot. Stones were hurled through windows. A barrage of missiles fell on the ranks of the police who had caught up with them by this time. In the mêlée Patrolman Irwin Young, one of the radio car men, was cut on the right hand by a rock and Harry Gordon, 20, a student, of 639 Prospect Avenue, the Bronx, was arrested on a charge of assaulting the policeman.

Patrolman Michael Kelly of the West 123d Street station was so severely injured on the right ankle by a brick that he had to be taken to the Harlem Hospital. Detective Charles Foley was hit on the left shoulder blade by a missile but he refused medical attention.

Detective William J. Boyle of the Wadsworth Avenue Station was cut on the left ankle by a flying brick.

The police made more arrests as the evening wore on. Margaret Mitchell, 18, Negro, of 283 West 152d Street, was held on a charge of disorderly conduct for spreading the rumor that the Rivera boy had been beaten in the store.

Paul Boytt, 28, of 310 West 127th Street, a Negro, was shot in the back. Patrolman George Conn of the West 152d Street station said he had seen Boytt and several others jumping on Timothy Murphy, 29, of 44 Moylan Place, shortly after 9 P. M. on 127th Street, between Eighth and St. Nicholas Avenues.

Conn fired one shot in the air and the group fled. The policeman said he had ordered Boytt to halt and had fired one shot at him when he refused. Boytt was taken to the Harlem Hospital, as was Murphy, who received a broken nose.

Detective Henry Rowge of the East 123d Street Station was cut on the head and face by a rock which, after hitting him, bounced through the plate glass window of a store in 125th Street near Seventh Avenue. Rowge arrested James Hughes, 24, a Negro, of 1,890 Seventh Avenue, as the rock thrower, accusing him of felonious assault.

Another casualty was Ebbs Brewer, 28, a Daily News photographer, who was felled by some Negroes in front of the Hotel Theresa, Seventh Avenue and 125th Street. Brewer went by taxicab to the Harlem Hospital suffering from cuts on the head.

Man Stoned by Mob.

One of the roving bands hurled stones at an unidentified man in front of 226 West 125th Street about 10:30 P. M., knocking him unconscious and fracturing his skull. The man was taken to the Harlem Hospital, where it was said his condition was grave. Douglas Cornelius, 22, a Negro of 52 East 108th Street, was arrested in connection with the incident and charged with felonious assault.

John Hademan, 26, a Negro, whose address was not given, suffered a fractured skull in a mêlée at 126th Street and Seventh Avenue and was taken to the Harlem Hospital.

De Sota Windgate, a Negro, of 7 East 114th Street, was shot in the abdomen while standing in 144th Street between Seventh and Lenox Avenues late in the evening. He also was taken to the Harlem Hospital.

Lloyd Hart, 16, a Negro, of 321 St. Nicholas Avenue, was shot in the abdomen about 12:45 A. M. today and was brought to the Harlem Hospital in a serious condition. The police said he was wounded by Patrolman John MacInerney of the East 104th Street station after Hart had thrown a stone through the window of an automobile supply store at 2,150 Seventh Avenue and run away, refusing to obey the policeman's command to halt.

Clarence London, 34, a Negro, of 676 St. Nicholas Avenue, was shot in the right leg about 6 P. M. at 125th Street and Seventh Avenue. He also was taken to the Harlem Hospital.

Another victim of the stone-throwers was James Wrigley, 49, of 995 Grace Terrace, Ten Eyck, N. J., manager of the Holmes Electric Protective Company of New York, a private police agency, who hurried to the riot area to supervise the work of distributing private policemen throughout the district to protect the various stores. About 12:45 o'clock this morning, Mr. Wrigley was struck by a stone at 126th Street and Seventh Avenue, receiving cuts about both eyes and a serious head injury, possibly a concussion of the brain.

Several of the rioters stoned a Fifth Avenue Coach Company's bus at 127th Street and Seventh Avenue about 11 P. M., but none of the passengers was injured.

Two more shootings occurred about 2 o'clock this morning. Willmot Henry, 29, a Negro, of 214 West 146th Street, was shot in the back and seriously wounded at 128th Street and Lenox Avenue. Victor Fain, 19, a Negro, of 315 West 113th Street was shot in the left ankle at 128th Street and Seventh Avenue. Both were taken to Harlem Hospital.

Inspector McAuliffe ordered six emergency squads to stand by near the corner of 125th Street and Seventh Avenue, while twenty-five radio cars, mounted and foot patrolmen and plainclothes detectives scoured the entire area, arresting troublemakers and saving several white persons from severe beatings.

Emergency squads took up strategic positions at 124th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, 125th Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, 126th Street between Lenox and Seventh Avenues, and at 130th Street and Lenox Avenue. Meanwhile other policemen combed rooftops of various tenements houses, hunting for Negroes who were throwing bricks down to the streets. Shots were heard frequently as policemen fired their pistols into the air, frightening away various groups of would-be disturbers.

Solomon Harper, a member of the defense committee of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, issued a statement, saying his organization would hold the Mayor "responsible for the actions of the city officials," who, he charged, had tried to shift the responsibilities "for the police beating a Negro woman after the boy had been beaten."

Riots - 1935

New York

NEW YORK TIMES

MAR 20 1935

Police Shoot Into Rioters; Kill Negro in Harlem Mob

3,000 Storm Store After Boy Knife Thief, 16, Is Reported Lynched—Several Shot—Many Felled by Stones.

A 16-year-old Negro boy stole a ten-cent knife from a West 125th Street store yesterday afternoon, precipitating a riot in which roving bands of Negro men and women smashed 200 plate-glass store windows, looted stores, assaulted white pedestrians and forcibly resisted 500 policemen patrolling streets in an area of more than a square mile.

The trouble began about 4 P. M. and, after a short lull, it flared up again shortly after 6 P. M., when a crowd of 3,000, mostly Negroes, went on a rampage. After seventy-five mounted and foot patrolmen and the crews of radio cars had succeeded in dispersing the mob, the roving bands of trouble-makers, mistakenly believing that the 10-year-old boy had been beaten to death for his filching of the candy, ranged the Harlem streets, hurling missiles through store windows.

The situation took on an uglier aspect several hours after the rioting began with the fatal wounding of a Negro named Lyman Quarterman, 34, of 306 West 146th Street, during a disturbance at 121st Street and Seventh Avenue. Quarterman died of a bullet wound in the abdomen at 1 o'clock this morning in the Harlem Hospital. The police launched an investigation to determine who fired the fatal shot. Several others were shot.

With the police holding their riot guns in readiness for immediate action, the marauding bands took advantage of their unwillingness to shoot by hurling stones at them. Many policemen were hurt by flying brickbats.

By 2:30 o'clock this morning the police had made a total of fifty arrests and they announced that the majority of the prisoners would be charged with inciting to riot. At that hour the excitement had died down except for occasional instances of minor disturbances. The strong police guard, however, was ordered to remain on duty throughout the night. It was announced that the police would launch a general investigation of the riot at once. The police estimated that 100 persons had been injured.

The riot became so serious about 9 P. M. that Chief Inspector John J. Seery and Deputy Chief Inspector David J. McAuliffe, the borough police commander, took charge of the small army of police. Meanwhile, reports of the smashing of store windows and sporadic cases of looting continued to come in. In many instances the merchandise of fruit and grocery and butchers' shops was taken out of the broken windows and strewn on the sidewalks.

It was the persistent rumor that the boy had been so severely beaten that he had died that kept the spirits of the rioters inflamed. The sight of a hearse in the vicinity about 7 P. M. gave rise to the belief that it had come to take the boy's body away, although the hearse was bound for a house in the neighborhood.

However, the rumor that the boy had been beaten was false, according to the police and the management of the S. H. Kress store at 256 West 125th Street, between Seventh and Eighth Avenues.

Chief Inspector Seery issued orders to locate the youth and prove that he was unharmed. The young man, Lino Rivera, 16, was located at his home at 272 Manhattan Avenue at 3 o'clock this morning and taken to the West 123d Street station for questioning. The police said he readily admitted the theft of the pocket knife, but said he had not been harmed in any way. The police said he would not be held.

Clerks Bitten by Boy.

There were about 500 customers, mostly Negroes, in the store when Rivera filched the knife from a counter. The manager, Jackson Smith. and two clerks, Charles Hurley, 28, of 2,875 Sedgwick Avenue, the Bronx, and Stephen Urban, 39, of 4,359 Gunther Avenue, the Bronx, closed in on the lad and chased him to the rear of the store, where they caught him. According to the police, the boy, in struggling to get away, bit Urban and Hurley so severely on the hands that they had to have medical treatment.

The customers in the store were thrown into a fever of excitement, during which Rivera left. Smith decided that it would be wise not to press any charge against the boy but to spirit him into a rear office and then to let him go home after the excitement had died down.

Quickly the word spread that the boy had been taken into the rear office to be beaten. In a few moments the customers went on the rampage, overturning counters, strewing merchandise on the floor and shouting.

Patrolman Timothy Shannon, who happened to be near by, ran into the store and, seeing that it would be more than a one-man job to restore order, telephoned the West 123d Street station. Meanwhile, some one else had telephoned police headquarters that there was a riot in the store. Two emergency squads swarmed into the store shortly afterward. By 5:30 P. M. the store was cleared. Order appeared to have been restored and the police left.

Agitators Stir Up Crowd.

A few minutes before the store closed at 6 P. M., a group of agitators arrived. Two white and two Negro pickets paraded back and forth in front of the store, bearing placards of the Young Liberators League with the inscription: "Kress Brutality Beats Negro Child" and "Kress Brutality Beats and Seriously Injures Negro Child."

This was the spark that set off another flare-up. Several hundred persons collected. Daniel Miller, 24, unemployed, of 1,287 Southern Boulevard, the Bronx, mounted a hastily made platform and launched into a harangue. Miller was later arrested on a charge of inciting to riot. Others arrested with him on charges of acting in concert were Murray Samuels, 19, unemployed, of 1,821 Twentieth Street, Brooklyn; Samuel Jameson, 19, of 917 East 178th Street, the Bronx, and Claudio Diabolo, 39, a Negro mechanic, of 202 West 132d Street.

A few moments after Miller began his harangue, the crowd had swollen to 1,000 and was growing steadily. Once again the rumor spread that the Rivera boy had been killed. Persons in the crowd threw bottles through two large plate-glass windows in the front of the store and another outbreak began.

Squads of mounted and foot patrolmen, five radio cars and emergency men came on the run, charging into the crowd, which by this time numbered about 3,000.

Many ran at the sight of the police uniforms, but a large number gathered at the rear of the store, which runs through the block to 124th Street. While they were collecting bricks and other missiles with which to pelt the police, a hearse drove up and stopped at a house opposite the rear of the store.

A woman shrilled, "There's the hearse c... to take the boy's body out of the store."

Missiles Injure Policemen.

The crowd's fury became white-hot. Stones were hurled through the windows. A barrage of missiles fell on the ranks of the police who had caught up with them by this time. In the mêlée Patrolman Irwin Young, one of the radio car men, was cut on the right hand by a rock and Harry Gordon, 20, a student, of 639 Prospect Avenue, the Bronx, was arrested on a charge of assaulting the policeman.

Patrolman Michael Kelly of the West 123d Street station was so severely injured on the right ankle by a brick that he had to be taken to the Harlem Hospital. Detective Charles Foley was hit on the left shoulder blade by a missile but he refused medical attention.

Detective William J. Boyle of the Wadsworth Avenue Station was cut on the left ankle by a flying brick.

The police made more arrests as the evening wore on. Margaret Mitchell, 18, Negro, of 283 West 152d Street, was held on a charge of disorderly conduct for spreading the rumor that the Rivera boy had been beaten in the store.

Paul Boytt, 28, of 310 West 127th Street, a Negro, was shot in the back. Patrolman George Conn of the West 152d Street station said he had seen Boytt and several others jumping on Timothy Murphy, 29, of 44 Moylan Place, shortly after 9 P. M. on 127th Street, between Eighth and St. Nicholas Avenues. Conn fired one shot in the air and the group fled. The policeman said he had ordered Boytt to halt and had fired one shot at him when he refused. Boytt was taken to the Harlem Hospital, as was Murphy, who received a broken nose.

Detective Henry Rowge of the East 123d Street Station was cut on the head and face by a rock which, after hitting him, bounced through the plate glass window of a store in 125th Street near Seventh Avenue. Rowge arrested James Hughes, 24, a Negro, of 1,890 Seventh Avenue, as the rock thrower, accusing him of felonious assault.

Another casualty was Ebbs Brewer, 28, a Daily News photographer, who was felled by some Negroes in front of the Hotel Theresa, Seventh Avenue and 125th Street. Brewer went by taxicab to the Harlem Hospital suffering from cuts on the head.

Man Stoned by Mob.

One of the roving bands hurled stones at an unidentified man in front of 226 West 125th Street about 10:30 P. M., knocking him unconscious and fracturing his skull. The man was taken to the Harlem Hospital, where it was said his condition was grave. Douglas Cornelius, 22, a Negro of 52 East 108th Street, was arrested in connection with the incident and charged with felonious assault.

John Hademan, 26, a Negro, whose address was not given, suffered a fractured skull in a mêlée at 126th Street and Seventh Avenue and was taken to the Harlem Hospital.

De Sota Windgate, a Negro, of 7 East 114th Street, was shot in the abdomen while standing in 144th Street between Seventh and Lenox Avenues late in the evening. He also was taken to the Harlem Hospital.

Lloyd Hart, 16, a Negro, of 321 St. Nicholas Avenue, was shot in the abdomen about 12:45 A. M. today and was brought to the Harlem Hospital in a serious condition. The police said he was wounded by Patrolman John MacInerney of the East 104th Street station after Hart had thrown a stone through the window of an automobile supply store at 2,150 Seventh Avenue and run away, refusing to obey the policeman's command to halt.

Clarence London, 34, a Negro, of 676 St. Nicholas Avenue, was shot in the right leg about 6 P. M. at 125th Street and Seventh Avenue. He also was taken to the Harlem Hospital.

Another victim of the stone-throwers was James Wrigley, 49, of 995 Grace Terrace, Ten Eyck, N. J., manager of the Holmes Electric Protective Company of New York, a private police agency, who hurried to the riot area to supervise the work of distributing private policemen throughout the district to protect the various stores. About 12:45 o'clock this morning, Mr. Wrigley was struck by a stone at 126th Street and Seventh Avenue, receiving cuts about both eyes and a serious head injury, possibly a concussion of the brain.

Several of the rioters stoned a Fifth Avenue Coach Company's bus at 127th Street and Seventh Avenue about 11 P. M., but none of the passengers was injured.

Two more shootings occurred about 2 o'clock this morning. Wilmot Henry, 29, a Negro, of 214 West 146th Street, was shot in the back and seriously wounded at 128th Street and Lenox Avenue. Victor Fain, 19, a Negro, of 315 West 113th Street was shot in the left ankle at 128th Street and Seventh Avenue. Both were taken to Harlem Hospital.

Inspector McAuliffe ordered six emergency squads to stand by near the corner of 125th Street and Seventh Avenue, while twenty-five radio cars, mounted and foot patrolmen and plainclothes detectives scoured the entire area, arresting troublemakers and saving several white persons from severe beatings.

Emergency squads took up strategic positions at 124th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues, 125th Street between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, 126th Street between Lenox and Seventh Avenues, and at 130th Street and Lenox Avenue. Meanwhile other policemen combed rooftops of various tenement houses, hunting for Negroes who were throwing bricks down to the streets. Shots were heard frequently as policemen fired their pistols into the air, frightening away various groups of would-be disturbers.

Solomon Harper, a member of the defense committee of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights, issued a statement, saying his organization would hold the Mayor "responsible for the actions of the city officials," who, he charged, had tried to shift the responsibilities "for the police brutality in beating a Negro woman after the boy had been beaten."

New York World Telegram

MAR 20 1935

NOT A RACE RIOT, INSISTS LEAGUE

Ministers Blame Communists —Agitators Did It, Says Harlem Editor.

The League of Struggle for Negro Rights, 308 W. 141st St., today denounced statements that the Harlem disorders were a race riot and that Negroes cried "Kill whites!" as "nothing less than a bunch of lies."

"No white men were attacked on the basis of being white, as appeared in the Hearst press," said the league's spokesman, Solomon Harper. "Hungry people and boys who are charged with window breaking did not attack white people. Had the manager of the store been arrested, had the mounted white police kept their heads on 124th St. and had others used common sense there would have been no store windows smashed. There is no race riot in Harlem and there will be none."

Denounces Communists.

The Rev. Father Larkin, pastor of St. Aloysius' Roman Catholic Church in Harlem for the last twenty-seven years, declared that "no one but the Communists would have caused the trouble," and added:—

"All Communists ought to be shipped back where they come from if they don't like this country."

John Clifford Hawkins, of 2,313 Seventh Ave., attorney and former Alderman, said he had "no sympathy" for Communists; that he didn't think "there's any excuse for a riot at any time about anything."

William Clark, city editor of the Negro newspaper, the New York Age, 230 W. 135th St., said:—

"There was no need for the riot last night. The agitators knew that the riot was caused by themselves and they knew the boy was safe at 6 o'clock."

Pastor Hits Agitators.

"Only radical agitators would cause the riot last night," said the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church and a resident of Harlem for twenty-seven years. He said that "the beautiful friendship of the two races could never have started this trouble."

A. Silverman, whose drug store on Seventh Ave., near 130th St., was partly wrecked during the disorders, said he had "never seen any trouble between whites and colored" during his thirty years there; that he knew "it could have been no one else but the Communist party" which caused the trouble.

NEW YORK SUN

MAR 20 1935

Mayor Plans Own Riot Inquiry

Attributes the Harlem Disorders to Few 'Irresponsible Individuals.'

Mayor LaGuardia announced this afternoon that he was appointing "a committee of representative citizens" to make a thorough investigation of the causes of the riot in Harlem last night.

In his first public statement concerning the riot, he charged that the trouble was started by "a few irresponsible individuals" who had spread false statements and misinformation in handbills.

His statement, addressed to "the people of New York city," follows:

"The people of New York city must know that the overwhelming majority of the Negro population of west Harlem are splendid, decent, law-abiding American citizens.

"The unfortunate occurence of last night and early morning was instigated and artificially stimulated by a few irresponsible individuals. A very small fraction of one per cent of the population took part in the demonstration and violence. Small groups of vicious individuals marauded throughout the section from time to time committing acts of violence, attacking individuals in cowardly fashion and breaking plate glass of stores unoccupied during the night.

"Malice and viciousness of the instigators are betrayed by the false statements contained in mimeographed hand bills and placards.

"Attempts may be made to repeat the spreading of false gossip, of misinformation and distributing misrepresentation in hand bills or other printed matter.

"I appeal to the law abiding element of Harlem to carefully scrutinize any charge, rumor or gossip of racial discrimination being made at this time. Every agency of the city is available to assist in investigating all such charges. I expect a complete report from several sources, giving me details of every thing that occurred. As soon as I receive these reports they will be made public.

"I am appointing a committee of representative citizens to check all official reports and to make a thorough investigation of the causes of the disorder and a study of the necessary plans to prevent a repetition of the spread of malicious rumors, racial animosities and the inciting of disorder.

"F. H. LaGUARDIA, Mayor."

The Mayor was requested by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to appoint a biracial commission to make an independent investigation of the rioting.

"The committee should have official status to permit a thorough and impartial investigation into fundamental as well as immediate causes of trouble with the right to examine witnesses and all pertinent records," the association said in a telegram to the Mayor.

Walter White, secretary of the association, said that it was a mistake to attribute the disorders exclusively to agitators, stating that much of the trouble, in his opinion, is economic in origin, owing to the fact that Harlem has been hard hit by the depression and that much of the population is on relief.

Columbus, Ga., Enquirer Sun
March 20, 1935

NOT WANTED

A riot recently occurred in Harlem, New York's "Darktown," in which three persons were killed, many injured, stores smashed, and a large amount of property destroyed.

A small negro had stolen a knife in a store and when he was searchced for the missing knife a negro woman screamed. Immediately the rumor flew abroad that the boy had been beaten to death. It turned out that the boy had only been searched and is today living and was not beaten.

Thousands of negroes joined the riot, spurred by Communist agitators who infest that district.

Two hundred detectives and hundreds of police responded to the riot call. A number of the riot leaders were arrested. The woman whose outcries resulted in three deaths and the destruction of thousands of dollars worth of property was given the choice of paying a $10 fine or serving three days in the work house. She paid the fine.

Out of the ugly situation has come the claim by a negro leader that "the basic reason for the rioting were the intense poverty and misery in which the negroes live"—in New York. The condition is being used to urge passage of the Lundeen bill in Washington, providing adequate social insurance against unemployment.

Another scheme has been suggested, that the government provide funds to send the New York negroes "back home," meaning to the sections of the South where most of them originally came from.

The negroes in the north have fared badly as a whole. The right of equality with whites has not proven the boon misguided blacks had believed. It has only meant equality in the struggle for existence with no sympathy or considerate kindness for the black man and his family. As a result they have self-segregated themselves in Harlem where they are made the victims of every preying crook that wants to rob them. Communists have destroyed any idea of orderly government and industry that many of them might have had.

They have become unfitted to return to the South because they have absorbed doctrines, superstitions and semi-rights that will make them an irredeemable burden to themselves in any community in which they might live. This type of negro would not fit in the South any better than he does in Harlem, bad as his situation there is. The class of negroes they would "deport" is naturally the most shiftless and worthless in Harlem. The South does not want them. If the government should consider shipping them down here our congressmen and senators should strenuously fight any such a movement. It's New York's job to keep them and uplift them.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
STATES

MAR 29 1935

Harlem Negroes

INVESTIGATION of conditions in Harlem, New York's negro district, following the recent riots there, indicates that Harlem is not the Paradise for the race it has been represented to be.

Indeed, they are so bad that Mr. EDWARD C. RYBICKI, supervising mediator of the state labor department, recommends a wholesale exodus of Harlem's needy negroes to their old homes in the South, with the government paying the train fare, as the only solution of the problem posed by last week's riots. Mr. RYBICKI says:

> Thousands are literally stranded, with bare subsistence and little chance for employment. They began coming here with the inception of the depression, seeking employment. Many from the South were garbed in summer raiment in mid-winter.
>
> The conditions in Harlem, with little opportunity for employment, the overcrowded homes with two or three families occupying apartments originally planned for one, the discrimination of Harlem employers against the employment of negro workers and undernourishment all created a powder keg, set off by the slightest impact.

* * *

AGITATORS in the North, East and West are constantly assailing the South for its treatment of the négro and urging him to trek to other sections where he will find practical equality and the Promised Land. But members of the race who have been taken in by these lures have generally had the same experience. Before the depression came and labor was scarce the negro migrants from this section did find employment, but whenever the conditions changed they were crowded out of their jobs by the whites and left to shift as best they could, suffering terrible hardships and often driven out of the towns and cities they invaded.

No one in this section, however, would have believed that the conditions in Harlem were as deplorable as they are now painted by a state official; for Harlem has been pictured as a haven for the race, where negroes lived in fine homes, not in ramshackle cabins as in the South, and that there they had all the sanitary advantages, easy living and creature comforts of the whites in the East. Evidently it has been a sad awakening for the credulous negroes who traveled to Harlem in their seersucker clothes.

* * *

THE fact that New York wants to send thousands of Harlem negroes back to their homes in this section at federal expense should at least be a warning to members of the race of what they face if they are tempted to leave their happy homes in the South and go North, East or West in the expectation of bettering their conditions.

Riots - 1935

New York

NEW YORK JOURNAL

MAR 20 1935

GIRL TELLS OF RESCUE BY POLICE AS NEGROES ROAR FOR BLOOD

Clubs and Guns Drive Off Rioters Pounding on Locked Doors of Flimsy Fortress

By BETTY WILLCOX.

I was driving down 7th ave. from a peaceful dinner party. The young man with me stopped the car at 125th st. to get some cigarettes. I stayed in the car. For a moment I didn't pay much attention to my surroundings, but when I looked up I saw that the windows of all the stores around there had been shattered and the goods thrown all over the place.

I thought there must have been a fire, although I couldn't see any traces of it.

Suddenly, from up the street, I heard the sound of a shot, and then another one. People, all of them Negroes, came running down the sidewalk. Then I noticed that they were after a white boy. He zigzagged into the street, and four or five of the mob caught up with him, knocked him down and kicked him. Then they went on.

I was paralyzed. I locked the doors of the car and hoped that nothing more would happen.

'We'll Get You'

There was a mob at the corner and they were screaming:

"Kill him! Lynch him! Kick him!"

Some policemen from up the street and the mob came toward me. As soon as they caught sight of me, they yelled even louder, and headed straight for the car.

I was surrounded by a ring of black faces, every one with murderous rage in his face. They beat on the windows and screamed:

"White—we'll get you! We'll get all of them around here!"

They didn't seem to be armed, but they pounded the car until it rocked. I honked the horn frantically to get someone's attention, but nobody came.

Just as I was sure they would tear the car apart, a policeman and men without uniforms, but with big clubs swinging, dashed up and began to strike out at random and shoot in the air. After what seemed an eternity to me, but what was probably a few seconds, the Negroes retreated and the policemen closed in around the car.

Car Under Control

The mob still milled around on the sidewalk and kept up a steady yelling with an undertone of ominous muttering and shuffling. While one of the policemen went to find my missing escort the others stood around the car in a solid cordon.

From up the street came even louder sounds of splintering glass and shouts. Slowly, one by one, the gathering near me dispersed, and by the time the young man arrived there were only half a dozen sleepy-looking Negroes leaning against the shadowy doorways.

As we drove off there was an increasing noise up the street and more shots. I was more tha thankful to be going in the other direction.

BETTY WILLCOX: TELLS OF RIOT
"... And the mob came toward me!"

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
March 24, 1935

Riot in Harlem

The recent riot of Negroes in Harlem was, in the beginning, but a sudden and violent outbreak of such smouldering race antipathies as now and then disrupt the peace of this Northern haven of new life and opportunity for the Negro.

The gathering of the mob grew from the rumor that a Negro boy who had made a petty theft of candy in a five-and-ten-cent store in Harlem had been beaten to death by the shop's proprietors, with the disappearance of the boy, who had taken himself off in the midst of the confusion, adding to the belief that he had been killed.

The whole affair would not, however, have amounted to much more than some superficial wrecking of the interior of the shop, had it not been for the professional agitators who lie in wait for just such opportunities as this one gave.

For these always willing disturbers of the peace, there was no delay in rallying the scattered mob.

With angry shouts and inflaming speeches, this group of Communists headed a riot which called for action by heavy squads of police and ended in the wholly unnecessary tragedy of bloodshed before it could be brought to an end.

The dark story is but new proof of a menace we can ill afford to overlook.

New York Evening Post

MAR 30 1935

Harlem Riot Prober Snubs I. L. D. Aid

Refuses to Be Questioned by "Irresponsible Persons"—Attorney Accuses Police of Discrimination

The Mayor's Committee on the Harlem Riots held its first public hearing today and soon became a heated squabble between two attorneys for the International Labor Defense and an assistant district attorney.

Arthur Garfield Hays presided at the hearing, which was before a racially mixed subcommittee.

After Lino Rivera, the boy who unwittingly set off the riot, had told his story over again, once more denying that he had been beaten, Patrolman Raymond J. Donahue gave his version of the start of the trouble. He, too, said that young Rivera was not beaten.

Snubs Questioner

Then Assistant District Attorney Kaminsky was called. He told some details of the Grand Jury inquiry, but refused to discuss indictments returned.

"Now, Mr. Kaminsky——" began Joseph Tauber, one of the I. L. D. lawyers, but the Assistant District Attorney interrupted to say to Mr. Hays:

"I refuse to be questioned at this time by these irresponsible persons."

Mr. Tauber and his associate, Charles Koontz, started an impassioned duet of protest, charging that police and the District Attorney's office were discriminating against "certain ones," apparently referring to Communist sympathizers. They also protested that as members of the bar they were responsible lawyers present only to see that the Communist Party was not unfairly linked to the disturbance.

Hays Protests

"I don't think you ought to call these men irresponsible because their views are different from yours," Mr. Hays told Mr. Kaminsky, who shrugged and said: "That's your viewpoing."

Mr. Tauber said he was prepared to show that the police and the District Attorney's office were making terroristic raids, and cited the invasion a week ago of the office of the Hospital Workers' League. Detectives seized there equipment mhich they said had been used to print a mimeographed sheet which is alleged to have helped incite the riot.

Denies 'Real Victim's' Death

Mr. Koontiz brought in the record rumors that Rivera had been substituted for another boy who really had been killed. This came while Police Lieutenant Samuel Battle, a Harlem veteran and a Negro, was testifying.

Lieutenant Battle admitted he had heard the rumors, as well as many others, but said that all were untrue.

Charles Romney, a Negro lawyer, questioned the witness and urged that more Negro police be provided for Harlem.

Robert Minor Appears

Robert B. Minor, long an active left wing leader, and an intermittent candidate for office on the Communist ticket, intervened to endeavor to get Lieutenant Battle to say whether he considered that there was widespread discrimination against Negroes in New York. Mr. Hays pointed out that the hearing was on the riots themselves, not on the general question of racial prejudice.

Mr. Minor was able to bring out that most of the stores wrecked belonged to white persons, but Lieutenant Battle denied that the disturbances could reasonably be called a "race riot."

Louise Thompson, a Negro who was present when the riot started, had just started to tell her story of the events when the hearing was recessed for luncheon.

The hearing was held in the Seventh District Municipal Court in 151st Street.

Hits White Communists

The Rev. William R. McCann, pastor of the Church of St. Charles Borromeo, 211 West 141st Street, made public a pastoral letter which urged that white Communists be kept out of Harlem.

"Our people were the first to feel the depression, and it looks as if they will be the last to recover from it," the letter says.

It points out the resentment caused by high rents and the demands upon those who are employed to care for those who are not, and charges white agitators with working upon this resentment.

"The people of Harlem should be proud of the restraint they showed," the letter continues. "Three thousand rioted out of a population of 300,000. That is just 1 per cent. We wonder if other sections of the city so distinctly racial could boast of the same restraint under the same conditions."

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
March 25, 1935

HUMAN MISERY IN HARLEM

The Negro seems to have been born to suffer, otherwise a benevolent creator would not have endowed him with perhaps the most amiable temperament of all other men, this gift being vouchsafed him as a defense against his world.

In Africa he had, and has, his burdens to bear, including exposure to unhealthful conditions, including also ignorance.

In this country, as in some others, he was enslaved. He had the good fortune to come into freedom rather early in his career in this country, but he was thrown upon his own resources before he was prepared to make his way in a competitive world.

Thereafter until a generation ago the Negro was the football of the white man's politics, a game which he rarely understood A generation ago he was removed from politics in most of the States where he was numerically strong. He fell then into a spirit of indifference to politics in those States where the vote of his kind was restricted if not prohibited.

Political neutrality caused few Negroes any emotional disturbance, it imposed no suffering upon them—on the contrary it has probably been a Godsend to both races since it cooled and softened the growing friction between them.

The Negro has made astounding progress in many ways in the days of his freedom. His achievements reflect great credit upon him. But the Negro had not been able to achieve "economic independence" even in the days of a half dozen years ago when the whites had it, or thought they had it. Now the whites have lost much of the ground that they had gained, the Negro has suffered even more.

Most American Negroes are now and have always been dreadfully poor. Most whites have been poor, but blacks have been poorer. Many exceptional whites have been prosperous, but exceptional blacks always have been less prosperous.

No doubt the average Alabama Negro thinks of Harlem as a much pleasanter and much more opulent community than that in which he lives.

Life in Harlem is no doubt more exciting than the average Alabama Negro knows anything about. But such life does not make for spiritual peace for its residents, nor does it make for economic security.

Those who follow the life of the Harlem Negro with critical interest know that ashes are on his tongue.

The Alabama black knows that so long as his face is not ashen he has strength and vigor; if his skin looks oily he is gay of spirit, though he may be less sophisticated than those Yankee Negroes that roll their r's and put sugar in their cornbread.

All of which comes to mind as we read of the recent Harlem riot in which 1 was killed and 100 injured.

After the disturbance had been quelled, Joseph Mitchell, a staff writer for The New York World-Telegram, wrote a graphic and illuminating article for his paper which it seems to us should be reproduced in full by an Alabama newspaper.

We conclude by quoting this article:

Civic leaders of Harlem declared today that a bloody and disastrous repetition of last night's rioting might break forth at any time among the idle, half-starved and blindly resentful Negroes, who pass their days in the saloons and pool-rooms of the area and their nights in crowded, unsanitary and poorly heated tenement rooms.

"At any time there is the makings of a riot on the main street corners of the district," said James H. Hubert, executive director of the New York Urban League, Harlem's principal welfare organization.

"The Communists have made more headway in the last year or so than they ever did before, and there are a multitude of organizations whose one purpose is to arouse Negroes to boycott stores in Negro sections in which only white people are employed.

"The riot that broke forth yesterday has been festering for a long time. The people up here have been hungry. The Negro constitutes about four per cent of the city's population, but over 14 per cent of those on the relief rolls are Negroes. There are some blocks up here in which 80 per cent of the people are on relief.

"The community leaders up here have maintained that the Negro makes a mistake when he tries to start trouble by insisting on working in the stores in the Negro districts. I have maintained that the Negro should seek jobs on his merit and he should seek them anywhere and everywhere.

"However, there is a man up here from Chicago who calls himself Sufi Abdul Hamid, and he has stirred up the people until there is a lot of resentment against the white storekeepers in the district who do not employ Negroes.

"Also the people have been aroused because the police have closed up some of Father M. J. Divine's boarding houses, or 'heavens.'

"Sometime ago there was the beginning of a race riot in one of the night clubs and I got together a group of night club owners and policemen and we made certain reforms. Now, however, most of the night clubs are closed and there is no trouble starting in them. The investigation into the policy slip racket caused resentment, and all these things I have mentioned were in the minds of the people who began throwing bricks yesterday."

Charles M. Hanson, chairman of the Harlem Committee on Public Policy, a nonpartisan organization, will hold a meeting on Friday night at which Negro lawyers, doctors, newspaper publishers, night club proprietors and social workers will attempt to "discover the cause of the riot and plan a campaign to fight against a repetition."

Most of the Harlem storekeepers appeared to believe that the discrimination against Negro workers in the white stores of the district was the only reason behind the riot. On every Negro store in Harlem today there were signs bearing this legend, "Colored Store." One said: "Do not break this window. This is colored." There are many Chinese restaurants in Harlem, and they have placed similar signs on their windows. Chain stores have filled their windows with empty pasteboard boxes. Others have nailed boards across their windows.

It does not appear that the Harlem Negro is getting on any better than his Alabama brother. We wish it could be said that he was doing better, but the facts seem to be ~~on the other~~ side.

Riots-1935

New York

New York Evening Post

MAR 30 1935

HARLEM'S PROBLEM IS NEW YORK'S PROBLEM

Ten days have passed since the Harlem disorders. The Negro point of view as to the causes has been graphically presented by the Rev. A. Clayton Powell Jr. in a series of three articles in the Post.

Comment in the press and special articles in the weeklies of opinion, by Mr. Hamilton Basso in *The New Republic*, by Mr. Claude McKay in *The Nation* and by Miss Louise Thompson in *The New Masses* provide added perspective.

One consistent thread runs through all these presentations, from the ultra-conservative *Sun* to the near-Red *New Masses:* behind the trouble in Harlem lies not artificial agitation but genuine and long-suffered grievances.

Elimination of these grievances is necessary, not merely to prevent a recurrence of the disorder, but to protect all New York against the potential health menace represented by the ill-fed unfortunates in the dank cellars and often windowless tenements of Harlem.

The Harlem problem is a racial problem only to the extent that racial factors have intensified depression evils. The disorders there cannot properly be termed race riots. They were rather a miniature uprising by the most depressed section of New York's unemployed.

Fortunately the problems facing Harlem are not insoluble. New York is not the deep South and there is intelligence and good-will aplenty here to meet them. If a willingness to hear the other man's point of view and political courage are added, New York has nothing to fear.

The Governor, the Mayor, the District Attorney of Manhattan and our leading business men each have a job to do in this matter. And the welfare of all New York, not merely of Harlem, can be advanced by their efforts.

It seems to us the Governor's job is to see that Harlem is treated fairly in reapportionment. A self-contained community of 300,000, it resents continued gerrymandering. Harlem wants a Negro Congressman, and has a right to one on the basis of population. Chicago has one.

The Mayor's task, it seems to us, is to clean up conditions in the Harlem hospital, to end discrimination on relief, and to order investigation of reports that prisoners were brutally treated in the Harlem station houses the night of the disorders.

In particular the Mayor should throw some light on the Negro who was badly beaten by the police in the breadline at the 369th Armory on March 13. Is it true that he is in danger of permanently losing his sight? Why has no action been taken against the policeman who beat him? Why is he being held in a prison ward? What are the extent of his injuries? No one can find out at Bellevue.

Thorough airing of this case is especially called for because it spoils the good record made by the police on the streets during the rioting and because it is causing ill-feeling in Harlem.

What can the District Attorney do? The District Attorney can, if he has the courage, make himself a great reputation by cleaning up the politically protected rackets that thrive in Harlem and help to impoverish its people.

Clean up of Harlem rackets would benefit the whole city because the revenues of these rackets go to support powerful political forces that are rapidly coming to dominate the city.

As for the business men, we should like to see some of New York's more intelligent business leaders sit down with Harlem Negro leaders for a few hours of quiet discussion.

We should like to see them work out a plan to enlarge Negro opportunities in the Harlem area, and to present city authorities with plans for slum elimination and building improvement in Harlem.

The Mayor's committee on Harlem can, if it chooses, act as a spur on Governor, Mayor, District Attorney and business leaders in this matter. Not to do so is to leave the roots of Harlem's troubles untouched. Not to do so is to encourage the continuance of similar conditions in other parts of the city. Not to do so is to run the risk of another outbreak.

Above all, inhumanity to Harlem is a menace to every family in New York. A great city cannot permit a minority to live under conditions that would easily make them the prey of any epidemic, and others with them.

Surely there is goodwill and brains and courage enough in the world's greatest city for this job.

NEW YORK TIMES

MAR 31 1935

HARLEM'S KNOTTY PROBLEM

Full Inquiry in Which Various Agencies Would Join Regarded as the Best Hope

By LEONARD OUTHWAITE.

Harlem is quiet again after the sudden riots which broke out on the night of March 19 and the early morning of March 20. As quiet is restored, it becomes clear that very serious economic and social distress has existed in Harlem and has created the tension that made the riots possible.

The committee of inquiry appointed by the Mayor has called attention, in its first statement to the press, to the economic factors as fundamental in the situation that lay back of the riot. In this it confirms the opinion of committees and meetings which had already studied conditions in Harlem and the reports published in the newspapers.

From these statements, and from independent inquiry among responsible spokesmen in the Negro community, it appears that Harlem, long before the riots occurred, reached a state of poverty, distress and depression that seemed desperate even to a people to whom hard times were no novelty.

Much Unemployment.

Chief among Harlem's problems is that of unemployment. It is estimated that whereas one man in four is out of employment in the city generally, one man in two is unemployed in Harlem.

Among those employed, there has been a shift from higher to lower jobs—which has also affected the income of the Negro worker. During the period of prosperity and rising labor costs, Negroes sought and found jobs in the skilled trades and specialties. Training was offered not only in the Southern schools, like Hampton and Tuskegee, but also in the urban leagues, Y. M. C. A.'s, &c. With hard times Negroes have lost the better jobs for which they were equipped. Even in the traditional Negro occupations, such as janitor service and elevator operation, there has under stress of present conditions been a large replacement of Negroes by white men.

With unemployment and falling wages, the housing situation, always acute in Harlem, has grown even worse. Several factors seem to be operating. Rents have not fallen in proportion to the fall in Negro income. To meet the situation, families have "doubled up," several occupying one apartment and in extreme cases even one room. Real estate ownership has largely passed to white operators or white banks. These regard anything as good enough for the Negro and have permitted a steady deterioration in their properties. Social workers say that housing and sanitation conditions in Harlem are among the worst in the city.

Question of Relief.

It is also charged by the leaders and the active citizens that Harlem has not received relief in proportion to its needs or in proportion to the rest of the city; that Negroes are in effect barred from membership in the trades unions; that the public works programs do not relieve their unemployment; that no Federal or other housing program has been developed to meet their situation; and, finally, that committees and other peaceful means of making their distress known were largely ignored until the time of the riot.

The situation is plainly serious, even if some of the statements of the Negro committees and press be somewhat discounted. The riot has made apparent the need for a constructive program. With this in mind, committees in Harlem have suggested to the Mayor the strengthening of his committee on its technical, industrial and sociological side.

Should the committee ask the assistance of technical advice or recommend a thorough economic and social inquiry, it would have precedent for such action. The situation out of which the riot grew and the riot itself are not unique. The serious Chicago riot of 1919, which grew out of conditions apparently very similar to those existing in Harlem today, was followed by a bi-racial commission of inquiry and a thorough technical investigation was prepared. Charles S. Johnson, then on the staff of the Urban League and now Professor of Sociology at Fisk University, was largely responsible for the technical organization of the report, which is still regarded as a model of excellence and accuracy for this type of work.

Sources of Information.

There are many other resources for the committee of inquiry to draw on. A number of organizations exist with special skill and knowledge in Negro and interracial affairs. Most directly concerned is the New York Urban League. This organization has a joint white and colored board, trained colored staffs operating under the executive director, James H. Hubert. It serves as a centralizing agency for educational, social, health and welfare activities in Harlem.

Urban leagues exist in many other cities, and these are united through the National Urban League, which has its headquarters in New York and maintains its own staff of workers. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is also located in New York and is available for consultation on many special problems.

Commentators have pointed out chiefly what has happened and why but that the special task of the Mayor's detailed plan how city, State and committee should be not only to tell what Federal programs may bring relief and employment to Harlem.

MUSCATINE, IA.
JOURNAL

MAR 26 1935

THE MOB SPIRIT AROUSED

The human race has to cope with many enemies in its long struggle to work out a scheme for peaceful living, but the greatest enemy of all is the mob.

For a perfect picture of the way the mob acts, consider the riot that swept up and down the streets of New York's Harlem the other day.

A colored boy tried to pinch a 10-cent knife from a store counter. A floor-walker collared him and the boy, naturally enough, set up a holler. An excitable woman saw and heard just enough to touch off her motor reactions, and she ran out into the street yelling that the boy had been killed.

Up and down the streets went the cry. Out of poolrooms, lunchrooms, and workshops came angry men, milling in the streets, yelling, looking for someone to fight, afraid, suspicious, and angry. A crowd of a thousand men and women swept into the store, turning things upside down, breaking things, yelling, hitting, fighting.

Police reserves came, by the hundreds. There were dozens of fights. Scores of men were cut, beaten, or slugged. More than a hundred were arrested. Thousands of dollars' damage was done to property.

And the juvenile knife-stealer who unintentionally started it all managed to jerk away from his captors during the melee and vanished, utterly unharmed.

You could search the world over without finding a better example than this of the blind, panicky insanity of the mob spirit. Here was a riot of major proportions, an ugly welter of fights that spread all across a populous section of a great city—and all for what?

Not one of the rioters knew. They could not possibly have hoped to know. It started, literally, from nothing at all; and because men and women were jittery, and gave way to the combined emotions of anger and fear, there was merry Ned to pay.

Now you don't need to think very hard to draw the needed moral from all this. The mob spirit that can seize a few thousand people in one city is the same spirit that can and frequently does seize whole nations, when hatred and panic get together.

It sweeps dictators into power, causes mass executions, concentration camps, slugging and clubbings; it fills the air with bombing planes and the fields with infantrymen and sets cruisers loose on the sea lanes; it inflicts more misery and destruction on the earth than a generation can repair.

And all, as in Harlem—for what?

LINCOLN, NEB.
STAR

MAR 31 1935

HARLEM RED SCARE.

An investigation into the recent riots in the Harlem district of New York City, center of Negro life and activity in the metropolis, has revealed that the disturbance grew out of the unhappy living conditions of the residents of the area. Hearings on the problem brought to light the fact that Negro tenants in Harlem are the victims of a number of vicious practices.

The first and foremost of the abuses attributed to landlords is rent gouging. Rents have been raised as rapidly as possible, more rapidly than many of the tenants could stand. In many cases tenants were squeezed for their last penny. Landlords have organized and they are accused of "blacklisting" tenants who refused to pay increased rents or who gave shelter to an evicted tenant.

Tenants have organized, out of necessity they claim. Their organizations have for their purpose the defense of Negro tenants in the Harlem area. The Negroes have a problem peculiar to their race, their defenders explain. White people, suffering from the squeeze, can move elsewhere. But the Negroes cannot. They must remain in their districts if they are to remain in New York. As a result of the organization of the landlords and the blacklisting practice, the Negro tenants are entirely within their power.

Rent parties are natural developments, as a result of this unhappy situation. Persons unable to pay their rent invite in friends, sell intoxicants, play games and indulge in other vicious practices for money.

The result has been an increasing unrest in Harlem. Even the most patient renter finds his temper tried at frequent intervals. The crowding, the vice and the lowering of the moral tone of the community has brought on a serious situation. A rumor of the abuse of a Negro youth brought on a serious riot.

The investigation has revealed that economic conditions and the abuses which the Negroes of Harlem have suffered have done more than communist agents to make reds of them. The Harlem rioters are ordinary citizens who would like to live quietly and at peace if given a chance.

COLUMBUS, O.
OHIO STATE JOURNAL

MAR 23 1935

The Harlem Riot

A VERY little thing may start a riot that, in a short space of time, may take many lives and ruin a great deal of property.

In Harlem, which is part of New York City, and which has the largest Negro population in the world, a riot broke ~~out, one~~ man was killed, a large number of persons were injured and a million dollars worth of property destroyed, because some woman started a report that a colored boy, caught stealing a few pieces of candy, had been slain and that his body was being carried away in a hearse.

Police investigation discloses that Communists and radicals fanned the flames. For months they have been trying, and with no little success, to raise prejudices, economic bitterness and suspicion. Here was an occasion made to order for them and they made use of it.

Such mobs and riots are not peculiar to Harlem nor to the colored people. Many such disturbances have occurred among intelligent white people, and with as little reason as existed in Harlem.

Mayor LaGuardia has taken steps to study the whole situation in order to prevent such occurrences in the future. The investigation may disclose the unwholesome influence of reds and prophets of discontent to such a degree that the whole riot may be blamed on their influence.

Riots – 1935

New York

BRECKENRIDGE, TEX.
AMERICAN

Very Little Is Needed To Rouse Mob Spirit

The human race has to cope with many enemies in its long struggle to work out a scheme for peaceful living, but the greatest enemy of all is the mob.

For a perfect picture of the way the mob acts consider the riot that swept up and down the streets of New York's Harlem the other day.

A colored boy tried to pinch a 10-cent knife from a store counter. A floor-walker collared him and the boy, naturally enough, set up a holler. An excitable woman saw and heard just enough to touch off her motor reactions, and she ran out into the street yelling that the boy had been killed.

Up and down the streets went the cry. Out of poolrooms, lunchrooms, and workshops came angry men, milling in the streets, yelling, looking for someone to fight, afraid, suspicious, and angry. A crowd of a thousand men and women swept into the store, turning things upside down, breaking things, yelling, hitting, fighting.

Police reserves came, by the hundreds. There were dozens of fights. Scores of men were cut, beaten, or slugged. More than a hundred were arrested. Thousands of dollars' damage was done to property.

And the juvenile knife-stealer who unintentionally started it all managed to jerk away from his captors during the melee and vanished, utterly unharmed.

You could search the world over without finding a better example than this of the blind, panicky insanity of the mob spirit. Here was a riot of major proportions, an ugly welter of fights that spread all across a populous section of a great city—and all for what?

Not one of the rioters knew. They could not possibly have hoped to know. It started, literally, from nothing at all; and because men and women were jittery, and gave way to the combined emotions of anger and fear, there was merry Ned to pay.

Now you don't need to think very hard to draw the needed moral from all this. The mob spirit that can seize a few thousand people in one city is the same spirit that can and frequently does seize whole nations, when hatred and panic get together.

It sweeps dictators into power, causes mass executions, concentration camps, sluggings and clubbings; it fills the air with bombing planes and the fields with infantrymen and sets cruisers loose on the sea lanes; it inflicts more misery and destruction on the earth than a generation can repair.

And all, as in Harlem—for what?

Bronx, N.Y. Home News

APR 7 1935

Cops Caused Spread of Harlem Riot, Head of Mayor's Committee Avers

The spread of the Harlem race riot was blamed on the police by Arthur Garfield Hays, chairman of Mayor LaGuardia's investigating committee, during the second public hearing of the committee yesterday in the Washington Heights Court building, 447 W. 151st St., near Convent Ave.

Charges of bribery in connection with the testimony of two employes of the S. H. Kress store on W. 125th St., where the disorder started, and the threat of another riot were also hurled during the noisy and turbulent all-day hearing.

In another room in the same building, Tenement House Commr. Langdon W. Post testified before a sub-committee on housing for several hours and made two suggestions he believed would wipe out the slum areas in Harlem.

One of these suggestions was the establishment of a zone law in slum areas which would limit the height of buildings to about six stories and the amount of land to be covered by them to about 40 per cent of the area.

The other part of Post's program involved Federal financing at low interest rates for rebuilding Harlem and other slum sections.

Post testified that zoning laws to break land values in slum areas would make it possible to purchase land and build apartment houses for low rentals, if the money for this building construction could be obtained at a very low rate of interest.

Committee Hears Cops

The general committee, headed by Hays, heard several policemen tell what they saw and did on the night of the rioting, despite the effort of Dist. Atty. Dodge to prevent their testimony on the ground that their evidence might hinder the prosecution of those cases now before the Grand Jury.

Hays declared he did not think the District Attorney's attitude tenable and said he believed the order would be withdrawn.

The criticism of the police method of handling the start of the disorder occurred during the testimony of Policeman Timothy Shannon, of the W. 123d St. station, who was called to the Kress store when Lino Rivera was apprehended by two store detectives after he had stolen a ten-cent knife.

Only Obeyed Orders

After the youth had been taken to the basement, it was reported he had been beaten to death. As a result of the threats hurled by customers in the store, Shannon said he took a committee of four persons, two whites and two colored persons, to the basement to prove to them the boy had not been slain, or even beaten.

"Didn't it occur to you to bring the boy out and show him to the crowd?" Hays asked.

"I only did what I was told," Shannon answered.

"It might have assured them and rioting might have stopped," the chairman remarked.

"Such action was up to my superiors," Shannon replied.

"I am not blaming you personally," Hays said. "You see this whole thing started from a false rumor, and it could have been stifled at the start, if it had been properly handled by police."

After Rae Dodd, 25, and Nadie McClellan, 25, both colored employes in the store, testified they saw no evidence of Rivera being beaten, Charles Ramley, counsel for a Harlem colored organization, and Isaac Tauber, attorney for the International Labor Defense, charged that the women had been bribed.

Hays ruled their remarks out of order, but Tauber shouted that if witnesses were to be bribed "there might be another riot."

Internes Testify Amid Shouts

Internes from Harlem Hospital, testifying amid derisive shouts from the audience of 500, mostly colored persons, told of injuries which caused the deaths of men. A loud outburst of disse came from the spectators when one of the internes said:

"We do our best at Harlem Hospital. We don't mistreat patients."

Tauber attempted to show through questioning of Dr. Frank Discepola, an interne, that the hospital was undermanned and unable to give adequate service to patients, and the spectators joined in hurling questions at the interne.

Robert B. Minor, representing several Communist groups, charged Rivera was "in the vest pocket of the police" and did as the police instructed because he had been arrested for using a slug in a Brooklyn subway station a short time prior to the riot.

Charles T. Hurley, floor manager of the Kress store, told how he took Rivera to the basement. He denied the boy was beaten and said he was released after his name was taken.

Take Up Hobbs' Case

The committee then took up the case of Lloyd Hobbs, colored, who was fatally shot by Policeman McInerney, of the W. 123d St. station, when he is said to have been caught in the act of looting a store.

The dead man's father, whose name is Lawyer, and a brother, Russell, denied that Lloyd was looting the store when shot. They declared Lloyd was standing in a group of men who had been ordered to move by the policeman. When the group did not move fast enough, they charged, McInerney fired the fatal shot.

Interesting statistics on the economic and realty situation in Harlem were introduced by Commr. Post, who declared there is no doubt the colored people have been exploited by Harlem landlords through economic discrimination because of race and the unwritten social law that colored tenants are not welcome in many sections of the city. This last, he felt, is responsible, in part, for the exorbitant demands made by Harlem landlords, despite an increasing inability to pay among tenants.

He declared a recent survey made by his staff showed the weekly wage in Harlem averaged $17, of which about 40 per cent goes for rent. At this salary scale, Post found, low rental dwellings would have to be let at not more than $20 and preferably at $17 per apartment per month.

Post declared that Harlem land averages about $10 a square foot in

Appraised at $250,000,000

The Harlem area, Post said, is appraised at about $250,000,000, first mortgages totaling about $100,000,000. Taxes on that basis approximate $5,000,000 and, he said, if the appraisal were halved, the City would lose $2,500,000 but would bene-

Commissioner revealed that those in Harlem are the highest. He declared that landlords in that district for large private owners to reduce the rents higher percentage of tax payments to force the owners to reduce the incomes in the In connection with the high rents in the so-called slum areas, the area and declared the only solution realty value, and said low rent can-fit by improved conditions at a virtually impossible "ridiculously high not be developed on land valued at more than $3 a square foot. and then obtain money for publicly financed and controlled. low-rent developments average apartments and that only a few are available at less than $30. Post believed that it would be

Riots – 1935

New York

BRECKENRIDGE, TEX.
AMERICAN

Very Little Is Needed To Rouse Mob Spirit

The human race has to cope with many enemies in its long struggle to work out a scheme for peaceful living, but the greatest enemy of all is the mob.

For a perfect picture of the way the mob acts, consider the riot that swept up and down the streets of New York's Harlem the other day.

A colored boy tried to pinch a 10-cent knife from a store counter. A floor-walker collared him and the boy, naturally enough, set up a holler. An excitable woman saw and heard just enough to touch off her motor reactions, and she ran out into the street yelling that the boy had been killed.

Up and down the streets went the cry. Out of poolrooms, lunchrooms, and workshops came angry men, milling in the streets, yelling, looking for someone to fight, afraid, suspicious, and angry. A crowd of a thousand men and women swept into the store, turning things upside down, breaking things, yelling, hitting, fighting.

Police reserves came, by the hundreds. There were dozens of fights. Scores of men were cut, beaten, or slugged. More than a hundred were arrested. Thousands of dollars' damage was done to property.

And the juvenile knife-stealer who unintentionally started it all managed to jerk away from his captors during the melee and vanished, utterly unharmed.

You could search the world over without finding a better example than this of the blind, panicky insanity of the mob spirit. Here was a riot of major proportions, an ugly welter of fights that spread all across a populous section of a great city—and all for what?

Not one of the rioters knew. They could not possibly have hoped to know. It started, literally, from nothing at all; and because men and women were jittery, and gave way to the combined emotions of anger and fear, there was merry Ned to pay.

Now you don't need to think very hard to draw the needed moral from all this. The mob spirit that can seize a few thousand people in one city is the same spirit that can and frequently does seize whole nations, when hatred and panic get together.

It sweeps dictators into power, causes mass executions, concentration camps, sluggings and clubbings; it fills the air with bombing planes and the fields with infantrymen and sets cruisers loose on the sea lanes; it inflicts more misery and destruction on the earth than a generation can repair.

And all, as in Harlem—for what?

Bronx, N.Y. Home News

APR 7 1935

Cops Caused Spread of Harlem Riot, Head of Mayor's Committee Avers

The spread of the Harlem race riot was blamed on the police by Arthur Garfield Hays, chairman of Mayor LaGuardia's investigating committee, during the second public hearing of the committee yesterday in the Washington Heights Court building, 447 W. 151st St., near Convent Ave.

Charges of bribery in connection with the testimony of two employes of the S. H. Kress store on W. 125th St., where the disorder started, and the threat of another riot were also hurled during the noisy and turbulent all-day hearing.

In another room in the same building, Tenement House Commr. Langdon W. Post testified before a sub-committee on housing for several hours and made two suggestions he believed would wipe out the slum areas in Harlem.

One of these suggestions was the establishment of a zone law in slum areas which would limit the height of buildings to about six stories and the amount of land to be covered by them to about 40 per cent of the area.

The other part of Post's program involved Federal financing at low interest rates for rebuilding Harlem and other slum sections.

Post testified that zoning laws to break land values in slum areas would make it possible to purchase land and build apartment houses for low rentals, if the money for this building construction could be obtained at a very low rate of interest.

Committee Hears Cops

The general committee, headed by Hays, heard several policemen tell what they saw and did on the night of the rioting, despite the effort of Dist. Atty. Dodge to prevent their testimony on the ground that their evidence might hinder the prosecution of those cases now before the Grand Jury.

Hays declared he did not think the District Attorney's attitude tenable and said he believed the order would be withdrawn.

The criticism of the police method of handling the start of the disorder occurred during the testimony of Policeman Timothy Shannon, of the W. 123d St. station, who was called to the Kress store when Lino Rivera was apprehended by two store detectives after he had stolen a ten-cent knife.

Only Obeyed Orders

After the youth had been taken to the basement, it was reported he had been beaten to death. As a result of the threats hurled by customers in the store, Shannon said he took a committee of four persons, two whites and two colored persons, to the basement to prove to them the boy had not been slain, or even beaten.

"Didn't it occur to you to bring the boy out and show him to the crowd?" Hays asked.

"I only did what I was told," Shannon answered.

"It might have assured them and rioting might have stopped," the chairman remarked.

"Such action was up to my superiors," Shannon replied.

"I am not blaming you personally," Hays said. "You see this whole thing started from a false rumor, and it could have been stifled at the start, if it had been properly handled by police."

After Rae Dodd, 25, and Nadie McClellan, 25, both colored employes in the store, testified they saw no evidence of Rivera being beaten, Charles Ramley, counsel for a Harlem colored organization, and Isaac Tauber, attorney for the International Labor Defense, charged that the women had been bribed.

Hays ruled their remarks out of order, but Tauber shouted that if witnesses were to be bribed "there might be another riot."

Internes Testify Amid Shouts

Internes from Harlem Hospital, testifying amid derisive shouts from the audience of 500, mostly colored persons, told of injuries which caused the deaths o men. A loud outburst of disse came from the spectators when one of the internes said:

"We do our best at Harlem Hospital. We don't mistreat patients."

Tauber attempted to show through questioning of Dr. Frank Discepola, an interne, that the hospital was undermanned and unable to give adequate service to patients, and the spectators joined in hurling questions at the interne.

Robert B. Minor, representing several Communist groups, charged Rivera was "in the vest pocket of the police" and did as the police instructed because he had been arrested for using a slug in a Brooklyn subway station a short time prior to the riot.

Charles T. Hurley, floor manager of the Kress store, told how he took Rivera to the basement. He denied the boy was beaten and said he was released after his name was taken.

Take Up Hobbs' Case

The committee then took up the case of Lloyd Hobbs, colored, who was fatally shot by Policeman McInerney, of the W. 123d St. station, when he is said to have been caught in the act of looting a store.

The dead man's father, whose name is Lawyer, and a brother, Russell, denied that Lloyd was looting the store when shot. They declared Lloyd was standing in a group of men who had been ordered to move by the policeman. When the group did not move fast enough, they charged, McInerney fired the fatal shot.

Interesting statistics on the economic and realty situation in Harlem were introduced by Commr. Post, who declared there is no doubt the colored people have been exploited by Harlem landlords through economic discrimination because of race and the unwritten social law that colored tenants are not welcome in many sections of the city. This last, he felt, is responsible, in part, for the exorbitant demands made by Harlem landlords, despite an increasing inability to pay among tenants.

He declared a recent survey made by his staff showed the weekly wage in Harlem averaged $17, of which about 40 per cent goes for rent. At this salary scale, Post found, low rental dwellings would have to be let at not more than $20 and preferably at $17 per apartment per month.

Post declared that Harlem land averages about $10 a square foot in realty value, and said low rent cannot be developed on land valued at more than $3 a square foot.

Appraised at $250,000,000

The Harlem area, Post said, is appraised at about $250,000,000, first mortgages totaling about $100,000,000. Taxes on that basis approximate $5,000,000 and, he said, if the appraisal were halved, the City would lose $2,500,000 but would benefit by improved conditions at a higher percentage of tax payments.

In connection with the high rents in the so-called slum areas, the Commissioner revealed that those in Harlem are the highest. He declared that landlords in that district charge from $30 to $50 a month for large private owners to reduce the rents to the level of the area and declared the "ridiculously high rents" and then obtain money for publicly financed and controlled low-rent developments that only a few are available at less than $30. Post believed that it would be virtually impossible to force the owners to reduce the rents of the incomes in the area and declared the only solution

NEW YORK JOURNAL

APR 9 1935

'Negro Hitler' Seen Mastermind Behind Harlem Call to Arms

A Negro Hitler—one Abdul Hamid, who promises to deliver the colored race from its bondage—loomed as the shadowy figure today behind the arrest of Abdul Ferry, 27, for circulating inflammatory handbills.

Given a suspended sentence by Magistrate Greenspan in Night Court after his arrest at 135th st. and Lenox ave., Ferry agreed to appear before the Grand Jury investigating the recent Harlem riot. Ferry was arrested by Patrolman Charles Simon after several Negroes had complained of the circulation of the handbills.

"The man is at the subway entrance distributing the circulars. We don't want any trouble. He's trying to start it all over again," several persons told Simon.

The circulars being distributed, read:

"Citizens of Harlem: A call to action is sounded. Are you ready? The fight is on. What about Tuesday night, March 19, when hell broke out in Harlem? What shall be next?

"The answer will be heard next Monday night at Dunbar Palace, from the lips of the most talked about black man in the country, Abdul Hamid, called the Black Hitler.

"Hamid is the man who organized and successfully led the boycott campaign against unfair merchants in Harlem. Discharging Negro clerks must stop. Long hours and low pay must cease. We support stores in Harlem and we demand that we get fair returns. Let us end exploitation of Negro labor."

The circular purported to be issued by the Negro Industrial and Clerical Alliance. The meeting referred to was scheduled to be held at Dunbar Palace, 2389 Seventh ave., last night. No trouble was reported at the meeting.

Sitting with Magistrate Greenspan when Ferry appeared before him was the foreman of the Garnd Jury, Lee Thompson Smith, and Maurice Wahl, Assistant District Attorney working on the Harlem riot investigation.

Ferry agreed to appear before the Grand Jury after an invitation was extended by the court fgollowing a conference between Magistrate Greenspan, Smith and Wahl.

HARLEM RIOTS LAID TO NEGLECT BY CITY

Times

Lawyers' Group Finds Them to Be Expected Under Living Conditions There.

4-13-35

CHILD PROBLEM STRESSED

New York, N.Y.

Report Says Protestants Have No Refuge to Care for Delinquent Negroes.

The recent Harlem riots "have surprised no one who has been in touch with the condition under which we have permitted our Negro fellow-citizens to live," according to a report of a committee of the New York County Lawyers Association. The report, made public yesterday, was issued by the Subcommittee on Young Negroes in the Children's Court of the association's Committee on the Domestic Relations Court.

The committee, comprising Miss Dorothy Straus, chairman; Louis C. Haggerty and Edward R. Rayher, was appointed on June 19. The "initial stimulus" which led to the subcommittee's creation, said the report, "was a report which Judge Edward F. Boyle, then presiding justice of the Domestic Relations Court, had submitted to Mayor O'Brien concerning the so-called Negro delinquent group in his court."

No Place to Send Boys.

"As Judge Boyle pointed out," said the report, "there was no place to which to send young boys below the age of 12 who did not come or should not be placed technically in the category of neglected children, but who required some form of custodial care."

The report said "that no particular concern need be felt for young Jews and Catholics of the colored race, since they were few in number, and the protectories of both faiths stood ready to receive them if necessary."

"By far the greatest number, however, of Negroes belong to the various sects of the Protestant faith," it added, "and for these, since the Children's Village at Dobbs Ferry had closed its doors to Negroes, there was no place whatsoever. The Training School for Girls at Hudson and the Training School for Boys at Warwick could not, under the statutes creating them, take children under the age of 12 years."

Children classified as delinquent "are those who commit serious offenses, such as theft, burglary, sometimes assault," according to the report, and judges "have no other way than to place them on probation, with the result that we learned of one case of a youngster of 9¾ years who had been up before the court eight times on various charges of burglary."

"Moreover," continued the report, "the problem was one affecting boys more than girls, since most of the girls coming before the court usually belong to the neglected rather than in the delinquent group."

Probation Held No Solution.

The placing of delinquent children on probation or in foster homes "with people unable to cope with the problem of a maladjusted child very often resulted in infecting a whole area," according to the report. After listing various conferences with judges, government officials, welfare workers and others, the report said:

"It is obvious from the foregoing that the State and the city have not fulfilled their duty toward one of the most unfortunate groups in our community.

"If we cannot remove maladjusted youngsters from the unsuitable environment where they develop into anti-social little beings and transplant them into healthier, more fruitful soil, we shall find springing up around them where we left them a rank and unexpected growth of destructive weed."

Miami, Fla. Herald
April 8, 1935.

NEW YORK'S PROBLEM

NEW YORK recently had a race riot. The incident served to bring forcibly to the attention of the metropolis the race question which the South has, if not solved, at least reduced to a minimum of friction.

The Harlem upheaval was watched by Southern commonwealths with wonderment in face of the criticism to which the South has been subjected by other states that could not or would not understand the problem of race.

The New York situation in Harlem is fraught with many more difficulties than are apparent on first sight. In this section of the country, barring a small influx from the West Indies, the negro is homogenous. In New York the colored population is a veritable melting pot.

Of the more than 300,000 of the race in New York, the Harlem resident is not necessarily the negro descended from the old plantation days. He is diversified in religious, economic and social usage. His color alone is not variant and is the only factor that makes the teeming section a unit.

From Spain, Puerto Rico, South America, West Indies, Mexico and far off Africa and Abyssinia, they have come with their colored brothers from the Southland to raise New York's colored population from 50,000, twenty-five years ago, to where the metropolis houses today the greatest negro community in the world.

The New York negro is subject to prejudice, social distinctions, religious bigotry—even as his white neighbor. They are not born of individual attitudes to life but are rooted in the distinctions bred of birthplace and previous background.

The typically American negro has no liking for the other kind who in turn display a reciprocal snootiness to the negro whose lineage is of the soil.

New York has experienced a clash which must be reckoned with. The racial problem is no longer of the South. The Harlem situation bristles with peculiar conditions. Its handling will be an interesting laboratory experiment in racial strains in the life of the city.

New York Mirror

APR 7 1935

New Riots Seen Near In Harlem

Harlem is on the verge of another serious riot, according to witnesses testifying yesterday before the Mayor's sub-committee investigating the outbreak in the colored section on March 19.

A clergyman and a lawyer, both colored, declared the belief was prevalant throughout the section that a colored boy actually had been beaten to death in the basement of Kress's store, and his body hidden away by the police.

They warned that unless indisputable proof to the contrary was produced—and quickly—the streets of Harlem would again become a scene of battling blacks and whites almost any night.

Arthur Garfield Hays, chairman of the committee, ordered Lino Rivera, the boy who admitted he had stolen a knife in the store, and whose arrest precipitated last month's rioting, placed on the witness stand. Hays said:

"If there is a doubt in anybody's mind that this was the boy and that he was not even injured by the police or Kress employes, he can be questioned by any person present."

Robert Minor, counsel for a Communistic group, stated that Rivera had been under arrest for using a slug in a Brooklyn subway turnstile, and was under power of the police to do with as they ordered.

BOO DODGE ORDER.

he hearing, staged in the Municipal Court at 47 W. 151st St., was a turbulent proceeding throughout the day. The room was packed with colored people, openly hostile to any effort to justify the white participants in the riot.

They booed an order from District Attorney Dodge, barring all policemen from testifying to their part in the fighting. Hays remarked that the Prosecutor's action was untenable, but Dodge maintained that the police owed a first duty to him and the courts, and until that had been fulfilled, they should remain silent.

Patrolman Timothy Shannon testified to having arrested Rivera on the theft charge and said that the boy bit him on the hand. He denied his prisoner had been mistreated.

Rae Dodd and Nadie McClellan, colored girls employed in the Kress kitchen, which is in the basement where the fatal beating is claimed to have been applied, testified they heard no screams, or other disturbances.

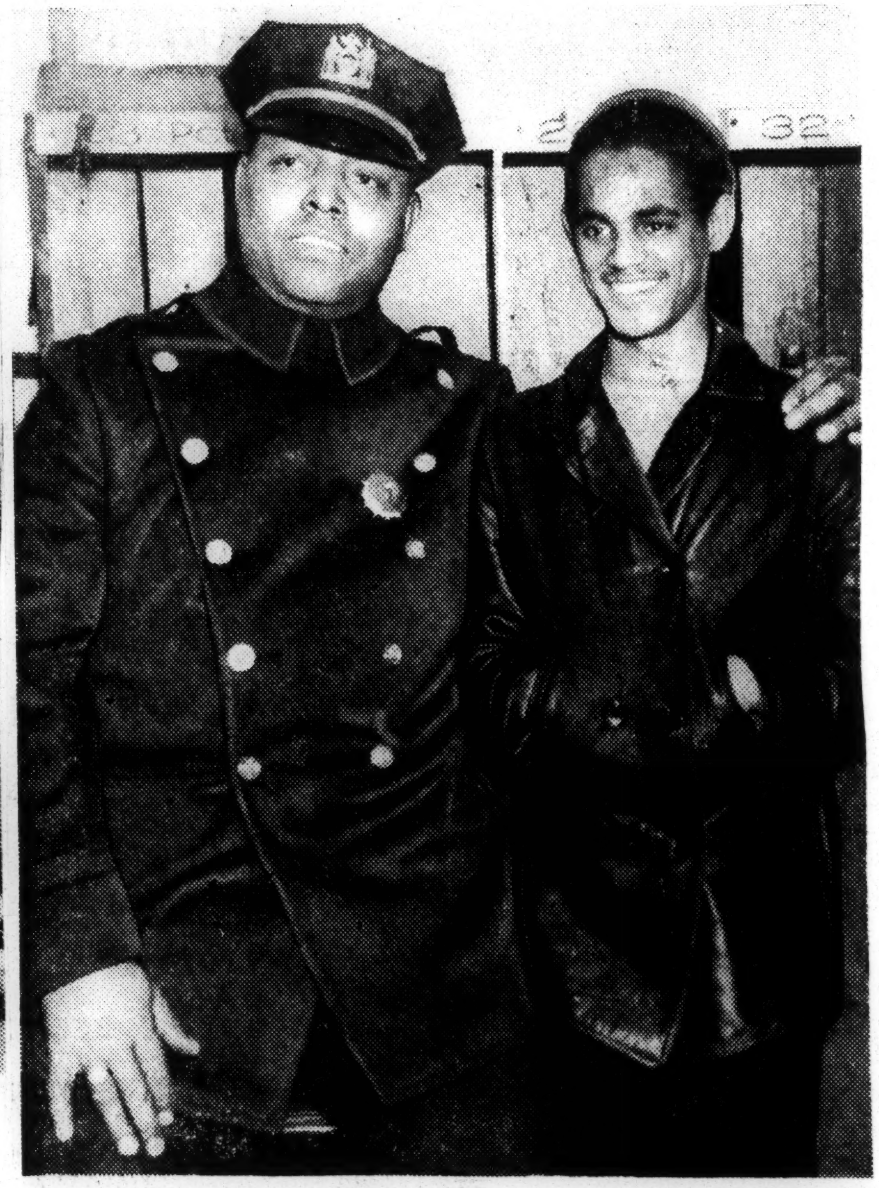
New York

Riots - 1935

STORE WRECKED IN HARLEM AND BOY WHO CAUSED RIOT

Associated Press Photo.

The front of a shop in the centre of the disturbance.



Associated Press Photo.

Lieutenant S. J. Battle with Lino Rivera, the boy said to have stolen a knife. The report that the youth had been beaten to death started the trouble.

MAYOR LAYS RIOT TO 'VICIOUS' GROUP

Times

Proclamation Posted in Harlem Store Windows Charges False Reports Started Trouble.

3-21-35

APPEALS TO LAW-ABIDING

New York, N.Y.

Committee of Eleven Named to Study Conditions in Affected Area and Offer Remedies.

Mayor La Guardia yesterday laid the blame for the Harlem riot on "a few irresponsible individuals" who spread false reports of race discrimination.

The Mayor's declaration was contained in a proclamation, copies of which, printed on sheets 2 feet by 2½ feet, were distributed to Harlem storekeepers last nihgt by the police, who asked that they be placed in store windows.

The Mayor named a committee of eleven to study social and economic conditions in West Harlem and to report recommendations for a betterment of conditions and for the prevention of disorder.

La Guardia's Proclamation.

His statement on Tuesday night's disorders follows:

To the People of New York City:

The people of New York City must know that the overwhelming majority of the Negro population of West Harlem are splendid, decent, la-abiding American citizens.

The unfortunate occurrence of last night and early morning was instigated and artificially stimulated by a few irresponsible individuals. A very small fraction of 1 per cent of the population took part in the demonstration and violence. Small groups of vicious individuals marauded throughout the section, from time to time committing acts of violence, attacking individuals in cowardly fashion and breaking plate glass of stores unoccupied during the night.

Malice and viciousness of the instigators are betrayed by the false statements contained in mimeographed handbills and placards.

Attempts may be made to repeat the spreading of false gossip, of misinformation and distributing misrepresentation in handbills or other printed matter.

I appeal to the law-abiding element of Harlem to carefully scrutinize any charge, rumor or gossip or racial discrimination being made at this time.

Every agency of the city is available to assist in investigating all such charges. I expect a complete report from several sources giving me details of everything that occurred. As soon as I receive these reports they will be made public.

I am appointing a committee of representative citizens to check all official reports and to make a thorough investigation of the causes of the disorder and a study of necessary plans to prevent a repetition of the spreading of malicious rumors, racial animosities and the inciting of disorder.

F. H. LA GUARDIA.
Mayor.

No Restrictions on Police.

When he was questioned about a report that the police in Harlem had been ordered not to use violence until they were attacked, the Mayor said he had given no such order.

"But that is a very sound policy to follow," he asserted. "It takes a great deal of tact, forbearance and patience to handle that sort of situation. I think the police did very well."

"Had you heard that eighteen of those arrested for rioting were on the city relief rolls?" he was asked.

"No," he said, "but you take almost any group nowadays and you'll find some people on relief in it."

"Doesn't it seem odd to you that the city should take care of these people so they can riot?"

"Yes, that is rubbing it in a bit, isn't it," the Mayor replied. "You have no idea of what we have to put up with in the administration of relief itself. Sometimes it requires the patience of a Job."

Harlem Inquiry Committee.

The Mayor named the following committee to survey West Harlem:

HUBERT DELANEY, City Tax Commissioner.
A. PHILIP RANDOLPH, president, Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.
CHARLES E. TONEY, judge of the Municipal Court.
Mrs. EUNICE HUNTON CARTER, social worker and lawyer.
COUNTEE CULLEN, author.
Dr. CHARLES ROBERTS, dentist.
ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS, lawyer.
WILLIAM JAY SCHIEFFELIN, trustee of Tuskegee University.
MORRIS ERNST, lawyer.
OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD, publisher.
JOHN J. GRIMLEY, doctor.

The committee will investigate the causes of Tuesday's riot. The Mayor said its recommendations would be made public as soon as they were received.

12 INDICTED IN RIOT; TROOP PLEA DENIED

Times

Harlem Quiet After Downpour Thins Street Crowds—New Inquiry in Albany Asked.

3-22-35

DODGE SEES A "CHALLENGE"

New York Times

Presses Fight on Red Leaders—Mayor Confers Today on Social and Economic Study.

Continued peace reigned over Harlem yesterday as the grand jury indicted twelve of the rioters and radicals involved in Tuesday's outbreak.

In Albany Governor Lehman denied the request of Harlem merchants for troops to supplement the large force of bluecoats patrolling the area, and Negro legislators called for legislative investigation of discrimination against their people.

At the same time District Attorney Dodge, apparently convinced that the riot had been fomented by radical groups, announced that he had accepted the "challenge" of those groups and would begin a grand jury investigation into their activities throughout the city with the hope of obtaining indictments against them.

Mayor Asks Cooperation.

Mayor La Guardia expects to confer today with the committee he appointed to study social and economic conditions in Harlem which Negro leaders maintain was the real cause of the disturbance.

"Tell the newspapers," the Mayor remarked at an interview, "that what we need just now is cooperation. We hope they will reserve their criticism until the job is over. We trust they will give the committee a chance to operate, to see what can be done."

Meanwhile, in Harlem the tenseness that followed the vandalism pillaging and arson of Tuesday night and Wednesday morning was noticeably waning. The police were thankful partly to the early morning downpour. It kept the crowds off the streets until noon.

Emergency wagons and radio cars still prowled about the Harlem streets and everywhere encountered glaziers replacing shop windows and shattered store fronts. Motorcycle men and mounted men, singly and in pairs kept watchful eyes on the moving tides throughout the shopping districts.

The only semblance of disorder during the day centred around Harry Carter, 30 years old, a West Indian of 121 Bowery, who was arrested on a disorderly conduct charge because his shouting, as he peddled The Daily Worker at 125th Street and Lenox Avenue, attracted a crowd.

With him was arrested Edward Donnelly, 30, of the Mills Hotel at Thirty-sixth Street and Seventh Avenue accused of interfering with Patrolman Walter Baker, who made the arrest. Donnelly and Carter were held in $25 bail each by Magistrate Renaud in Harlem Court for hearing Monday.

Mr. Dodge announced his plan for a city-wide grand jury investigation of radical agitators after a conference of almost two hours with seven police officials including Commissioner Valentine, Deputy Chief Inspector David J. McAuliffe who was in charge of the policemen who put down the riot, and Chief Inspector John J. Seery.

"Will this grand jury investigation be aimed at Communist agitators?" the District Attorney was asked.

"I am not interested in labels," was the curt answer. "We are interested in any persons, no matter what they call themselves, who believe and advocate overthrow of the government. We conferred on that situation as a whole."

Mr. Dodge said he could not discuss details of the investgation because the whole matter was to be studied by the grand jury.

Police Accept "Challenge."

"It will be aimed at those who want to overthrow government by force and violence," he said. "A challenge has been thrown down to law and order, and the grand jury, the District Attorney and the Police Department have accepted that challenge."

Urged for details of the matters taken up by the conference his comment was:

"We were only discussing the legal evidence in connection with the grand jury inquiry."

"What do the police propose to do to check general radical activities?"

"We won't talk about that now."

Twenty-six witnesses were heard by the grand jury before the indictments were returned. For the most part they were uniformed and plainclothes policemen. One of them carried a folded American flag into the grand jury room.

One of the witnesses was Lino Rivera, the 16-year-old Puerto Rican youth, whose theft of a ten-cent jackknife in the Kress store in 125th Street provided the spark that touched off the rioting.

Red Leaflets Followed Theft.

"We have evidence," said Mr. Dodge, "that two hours after that boy stole that knife, the Reds had placed inflammatory leaflets on the streets. We know who printed those leaflets and where they were printed.

"The Reds have been boring into our institutions for a long time, but when they begin to incite riots it is time to stop them." He also said that "those people found guilty of participating in the riot and who are on home relief rolls should be removed at once."

He said he would recommend this to the Mayor.

He also said he intended to ask the Commissioner of Immigration to deport any aliens found guilty of participation in the rioting.

"Half the trouble in the labor unions here is being caused by the Reds," he remarked. "They have been safe because we are sticklers for free speech, but whn that free speech undrmines our laws and causes riots, action must be taken."

Mr. Dodge said he had heard also that Communists had attempted to intimidate judges of the Court of General Sessions while cases against members of their group were pending. In one case, he related, they had attempted to intimidate Presiding Justice Edward Finch of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Dodge was asked whether the Mayor had made any request for the inquiry into the activities of Red agitators, or whether he had given the police any instructions.

"The Mayor had nothing to do with it," he said. "I called the conference, and I intend to have similar conferences in the future."

Sees No Need for Troops.

Commisioner Valentine belittled the suggestion of Harlem merchants that State troops were needed. "The Police Department is quite competent to cope with the situation," he said, "and needs no assistance from the National Guard"

In answer to another question he said: "Those responsible for the disorders were arrested. They will be prosecuted and, I hope, convicted."

He has received a detailed report from his subordinates who put down the riot. On the basis of the report he said, he ascribed the outbreak and later trouble to four sources: the theft of the knife, the hysteria of the woman who screamed when she saw store employes searching the boy, the activities of the Young Liberators (Harlem radicals) who paraded in front of the store and handed out inflammatory literature falsely reporting the boy had been beaten and the accidental passing of a hearse, which started rumors that the boy was dead.

"Why are Communist agitators allowed to roam in Harlem preaching sedition and distributing inflammatory literature?" the commissioner was asked.

"They are allowed to roam all over," was the answer. "There is constitutional provision for that. While their literature is seditious and inflammatory it comes within the limits of the constitutional provision. Of course we know it is borderline stuff, but it does not urge overthrow of organized government by force and violence."

"What steps will the commissioner take to stop such inflammatory tactics?"

"We are always taking steps to suppress them. If they overstep themselves they are arrested. If any person creates disorder or is likely to cause disorder he or she is immediately arrested, but every one knows that all people, regardless of their political affiliations and beliefs are allowed to congregate and express themselves."

Denies Police Lost Control.

In reply to another question, he denied that the police had let the Harlem disorder get out of control. "The situation was never out of control," he said. "The trouble did assume great proportions, but adequate reinforcements were sent for and immediately responded."

Why, another questioner asked, didn't the Commissioner invoke Section 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure against persons advocating criminal anarchy?

"There have been some arrests under that section," he said, "but it is difficult to obtain convictions under it." He cited the recent conviction of Sufi Abdul Hamid, known as "the Negro Hitler," as one instance where the section was invoked successfully.

There were reports that some Harlem radical group intended to parade through the district on Saturday and to hold a mass meeting. Commissioner Valentine said no application for such a parade had come to him. When he was asked what he would do if the application were made, he answered: "We'll decide that when—and if—it is made."

Dr. Robert W. Searle, general secretary of the Greater New York Federation of Churches, in a statement on the Harlem outbreak said that while Communist agitation had fanned the knife incident to riot proportions, "we cannot make the Communists the scapegoat for a basic condition which made possible such a hysteric outburst." The "basic condition," he said, is the economic insecurity of the Harlem Negroes, who are barred from jobs by racial discrimination.

"Until the white race, which controls all the phases of life in this city, recognizes its full responsibility," he said, "this suffering will go on unabated, a shameful stain upon our corporate life; until then will the almost helpless Negro be the victim of exploitation by those who care not for him, save as a means to the ends of confusion and disorder."

"YOU PEOPLE."

Times

During a boisterous session of the Mayor's Sub-committee which is investigating conditions said to have been partly responsible for the Harlem riot, Arthur Garfield Hayes, acting as chairman, asked that all Negroes present cooperate in keeping order. He quite innocently used the phrase "you people," to which members of the race took umbrage, and Mr. Hayes was promptly told: "We are Americans just like you."

3-27-35

This militant champion of the oppressed was surprised and abashed by the unexpected outburst, which gave him a new slant on Negro psychology. Moreover, the incident was revealing with respect to the peculiar working of Mr. Hayes' mind toward a race to which he is friendly.

New York Times

Connotation has made "you people" as objectionable to Negroes as "Negress." For years it has been a favorite phrase of white politicians, especially Republican speakers in addressing Negro audiences. It was not until prominent local Democrats, such as James J. Walker and Alfred E. Smith, appeared on Harlem platforms that race voters were talked to without specific reference to race or "you people."

Some avowed white friends of the Negro seem unconsciously and unintentionally to visualize the race as separate and distinct from other Americans and not as an integral part. A Broadway columnist recently published a list of outstanding stage entertainers—past and present. But did he include Bert Williams with Eddie Cantor and Ed Wynn and other low comedians; or rank Bill Robinson with famous white dancers? No. All the Irish, Jewish, Italian and what not (so long as they were white) were assembled in one group. The colored stars were segregated in another. And they say art knows no color line.

When sport commentators usually eulogize Gans, Dixon, Langford and other great fighters of another day it is seldom general acknowledgment is made of their unusual fistic prowess. They are not ranked among the greatest fighters, but "greatest colored fighters." Negroes resent the qualified characterization either bluntly and crudely stated or implied—"you people."

Riots-1935

New York

New York Mirror

APR 3 1935

One of the Casualties in the Riot

The man was struck over the eyes with a stick. The policeman holds him until an ambulance arrives. But the victim was only one of many white persons injured in the mad Harlem riot.

HATE NOT BASE OF HARLEM RIOT

THE conclusions reached by leading Harlemites on the causes of the fatal March 19 riots are pessimistic enough, as the following resume of this short series shows. But they absolve Harlem of the guilty passions of race and class hatred.

By JAMES WHITTAKER.

You have to get far away to get perspective on the problem of the segregated Negroes in the cities of the North, the farther the better. The prophets most willingly followed by the people of color themselves take the farthest viewpoint of all, that of Heaven, and this is the reason why the preachers have better Harlem audiences than the sociologists.

The preacher has the sooner solution: all you have to do is die and go to Heaven, where everybody is as white as a Summer cloud. Whereas the sociologist, backed by his scientific associates in the eugenics field, talks in terms of the thousand years or so at the end of which, inevitably, and by the processes of open or clandestine miscegenation, black blood will be absorbed into the bigger white stream and the "race problem" be solved, or, better still, forgot.

The most honest and intelligent Harlemites whose opinions have been sought here are avowed pessimists on the subject of the color problem here and now, optimists only for the long pull.

In only one city of the North, they point out, has the "darktown" problem reached a solution—and Chicago's arrangement, while it works, is not a pretty or idealistic one. However, it does take into account several stubborn facts and is the only working solution of the problem of a segregated urban district for Negroes which is based on the obvious conclusion that, if they must be segregated geographically, the Negroes must confirm that segregation and make it a liveable one for themselves by segregating also their economic affairs.

If Negro quarters for Negroes—Negroe dollars for Negroes, too.

It took a race riot and Chicago's

The Riot's Cause

Lieutenant Battles, the only colored superior officer on the police force, is shown with an arm around Lino Rivera, the boy who caused the riot.

stockyards gutters running with blood to bring the "Chicago solution" to a head. In 1917, Chicago white laborers, returned from the World War, had had time to turn around and appreciate the fact that the stockyards meat packers, having populated their plants with emergency colored workers during the war years and having found them as able but not quite so expensive as the 'fore-war whites, had not the slightest intention of giving the veterans back their old jobs.

It so happened that the district inhabited by the ousted white stockyard workers stood next to quarters taken over during the war absences by the colored supplanters. Wentworth Ave. divided the two. One dawn, in Bubbly Creek, the foul open drain which flows in Chicago's South Side — "back 'o the yards"—the body of a murdered Negro stockyards worker was found. Before the week was over, Wentworth Ave. was a no-man's land between two factions pitted against each other in a war to the death.

It was a real war and it ended as all wars must end, in a peace of exhaustion and one of terms. There was no conference in a hall of mirrors and there were no signatories, but the peace pact of Wentworth Ave. exists and has its articles and sipulations just the same.

The result for Chicago as a community has been that, for better or worse, segregation is defined and dismissed from the civic mind. The result for Chicago's Negroes, definitely for the better, has been conscious and a kind of prideful segregation—a segregation which was WON, not imposed. It is this sense that their "black belt" along Wentworth Ave. was an achievement rather than an imposition, which has given Chicago's Negroes their peculiar solidarity. Chicago's is the only darktown in the country where Negro dollars are spent in Negro shops, the only Black City with an economic structure of its own.

'BLACK DOLLARS" OBJECT OF WAR.

This long excursion to the Chicago scene has been necessary to clear up what seems to be the most perplexing feature of Harlem's outbreak of March 19, when 5,000 Harlemites went berserk up and down Harlem's avenues, smashing and looting and assaulting, and all to the tune of a cryptic rallying cry: "Down with the ofay stores!"

To those who think in such simple black-and-white terms as race wars the riot and its war-cry made no sense at all. What was all this talk about "Negroes to wait on Negroes?" What a remote issue to cause spilling of blood!

But it was not a remote issue It is the sole issue existing in Harlem today. For Harlem has still to face the crisis which Chicago's Black Belt met and fought out to solution in 1917. Harlem has no "black economics." In a very painful as well as symbolic sense, Harlem is "bled white." Harlem's dollars—even the few that circulate now in these times of few jobs—do not stay in Harlem, scarcely over one night.

The white storekeeper and the white rent collector take the dollars away. There ha evbeen two conquests of Harlem by infiltration since the end of the war. The first was the invasion of the district by colored residents. The second has been just as complete as the first—a white re-conquest of the area the Negroes won. Block by block, store by store, house by house, white profit seekers here infiltrated back into the district which became black by common consent in the decade after the war.

It is for the "Black dollar" that Harlem fights now, because it has so. The process whereby the wealth of Harlem is sucked out as soon as made, has gone so far that it is now an elemental matter of survival that it should be stopped.

NEGRO AUTHORITY CITES FIGURES.

In a pamphlet gotten out in Jersey City last year by A. R. Mayo, the Negro authority on statistics of his race, it is suggestively pointed out that Negroes operate but 258 of the shops in Harlem catering to a quarter of a million colored population there.

Mayo gets as close as anyone to stating the case back of the March 19 riot (and of more to come?) in one pithy paragraph of comment on his own figures:

"Chicago Negroes adopted a slogan: 'Don't spend your money where you can't work!' and compelled the capitulation of hundreds of merchants in the Negro section of that city. The possibilities of mass movements of this character have not yet been tested by the race."

In the boiled-down opinion of Harlemites, the March 19 riot leads to two conclusions, one bad, one good.

The bad:

The riot was strictly a "hard times" outburst and, as such, may repeat itself so long as the hard times squeeze.

The good:

As huch, it was NOT a race riot nor a red riot. Harlem was guilty neither of a gesture of class hatred nor one of hatred of race.

RHINELANDER, WIS NEWS

MAR 26 1935

MOB SPIRIT

The human race has to cope with many enemies in its long struggle to work out a scheme for peaceful living, but the greatest enemy of all is the mob.

For a perfect picture of the way the mob acts, consider the riot that swept up and down the streets of New York's Harlem the other day. A colored boy tried to pinch a 10-cent knife from a store counter. A floor-walker collared him and the boy, naturally enough, set up a holler. An excitable woman saw and heard just enough to touch off her motor reactions, and she ran out into the street yelling that the boy had been killed.

Up and down the streets went the cry. Out of poolrooms, lunchrooms and workshops came angry men, milling in the streets, yelling, looking for someone to fight, afraid, sus-

picious, and angry. A crowd of a thousand men and women swept into the store, turning things upside down, breaking things, yelling, hitting, fighting.

Police reserves came, by the hundreds. There were dozens of fights. Scores of men were cut, beaten, or slugged. More than a hundred were arrested. Thousands of dollars' damage was done to property.

And the juvenile knife-stealer who unintentionally started it all managed to jerk away from his captors during the melee and vanished, utterly unharmed.

You could search the world over without finding a better example than this of the blind, panicky insanity of the mob spirit. Here was a riot of major proportions, an ugly welter of fights that spread all across a populous section of a great city—and all for what?

Not one of the rioters knew. They could not possibly have hoped to know. It started, literally, from nothing at all; and because men and women were jittery, and gave way to the combined emotions of anger and fear, there was merry Ned to pay.

Now you don't need to think very hard to draw the needed moral from all this. The mob spirit that can seize a few thousand people in one city is the same spirit that can and frequently does seize whole nations, when hatred and panic get together.

It sweeps dictators into power, causes mass executions, concentration camps, sluggings and clubbings. It fills the air with bombing planes and the fields with infantrymen and sets cruisers loose on the sea lanes; it inflicts more misery and destruction on the earth than a generation can repair.

And all, as in Harlem—for what?

BRUTALITY HIT AT RIOT PROBE

Christian Science Monitor

Police Are Scored in Turbulent Session—Job Bias Flayed

4-27-35

Harlem's long and smouldering resentment against police brutality boiled over in Heights Court last Saturday when witnesses before the Mayor's Committee flayed the actions of local law enforcement officers, before and after the outbreak, as one of the factors which precipitated the March 19 riots. The hearing was the most turbulent held since the riot investigation began five weeks ago.

New York Times

The committee also probed further into the discrimination against Negroes in employment in New York City and heard the Rev. Adam C. Powell, Jr., urge Harlemites to revive the picketing and boycott movement and extend it to the chain stores and public utilities who deny jobs to members of their race. The public hearings will continue this morning (Saturday) at the court, 447 West 151st street.

Highlights in last Saturday's turbulent hearing included:

(1) The testimony of Mrs. Carrie Hobbs, 321 St. Nicholas avenue, to the effect that Patrolman John McInerney, white slayer of 16-year-old Lloyd Hobbs, admitted at the youth's deathbed in Harlem Hospital that the boy was not looting during the riot but had merely ignored a command to halt.

(2) The story of Thomas Aiken, unemployed youth residing at 760 St. Nicholas avenue, that several days before the riots two policemen brutally attacked him as he stood in the breadline at the 369th Armory on 142d street, gouged out one of his eyes with a nightstick and beat him into insensibility.

The testimony of Mrs. Hobbs, whose 16-year-old son was one of the four fatalities of the outbreak, directly contradicted the story of the police that the boy was fatally wounded for looting a store. According to the mother, Patrolman McInerney, questioned by her at Harlem Hospital, denied that he had ever accused Lloyd of stealing. She quoted the officer as saying: "No one said he was stealing. I called to him to stop but he didn't." At a previous hearing the youth's 15-year-old brother, Russell, had testified that Lloyd, a passerby, had been shot when he fled at the command of officers to "break it up."

Police Heckled.

Detective John J. O'Brien, who investigated the shooting, admitted on the stand that the police had not listed any articles allegedly stolen by the boy. McInerney was not present Saturday but a white fellow officer, James V. Materson, testified that the former shot the youth when Lloyd fled from a store with stolen goods. The Grand Jury has failed to indict McInerney.

The testimony of Materson was interrupted when Edward Welsh, member of the Communist Party Opposition, leaped to his feet in the audience and yelled "Let the dog bark louder." As Arthur Garfield Hays, chairman of the hearing committee, had no power to eject Welsh from the room, he adjourned the hearing for ten minutes until the heckler left. Another officer, Sergeant McCormick, was heckled and booed by the audience when he testified that he had taken a deathbed statement in which the youth admitted the looting. The audience intimated that the statement was framed.

Tells of Breadline Attack.

Recently released from Harlem Hospital and wearing a black patch over his left eyesocket, Aiken took the stand to tell how he was assaulted at the armory by Patrolmen David Egan and Eugene Cahill when they thought he had created a disturbance in the breadline. One of the officers struck him in the face with his fist, he said, and another gouged out his eye with a nightstick.

Aiken's story was supported by Buck Brown, 127 East 129th street, who told how the officers beat the youth into insensibility and then allowed his unconscious form to lay unattended for more than an hour before the Harlem Hospital ambulance arrived. An armory employee allegedly joined in the attack. Aiken was then arrested on an assault charge preferred by the officers.

The audience grew particularly noisy when Egan and Cahill refused to take the stand in their own defense. The officers said they were acting under the orders of Police Commissioner Valentine and District Attorney Dodge. Charles T. Romney, secretary of the Civil Rights Protective Association, momentarily halted the proceedings by yelling "The next time any cop in Harlem interferes with me or my relatives, I'm not going to appeal to the law, I'm going to take the law in my own hands!"

Says Man "Disappeared."

Asked to take the stand himself after he had charged that "people have gone into Harlem Hospital and have never been heard of or seen again," Romney cited the case of Emery Clay, 224 West 124th street, as an instance. He declared that the man had been taken to Harlem Hospital with a fractured skull and had not been seen since. Romney also charged that police were intimidating witnesses of the inquiry and stated that the superintendent of a building at 2052 Seventh avenue had been threatened by cops over an impending lawsuit.

Chairman Hays summoned Patrolman McInerney for today's hearings after stating that the absence of the slayer of young Lloyd Hobbs "gave the public a bad impression."

Job Bias Revealed.

While the charges of police brutality were arousing the audience in one part of the Heights Court building, another subcommittee of the probing body was continuing testimony on the discrimination against Negroes in employment here.

This body heard Mrs. Carita V Roane, director of the Harlem branch of the State Employment Service, tell how she had sent four experienced Negro riveters to a PWA project near White Plains only to have them told by the foremen that no Negroes would be hired on the project.

The project is being constructed by the American Bridge Company and the four men, Luther Burton, Joseph Williams, Othaniel and Othello Staley, are seeking damages for the discrimination which violates the Stephens amendment of the State Labor Law. A demand for the cancellation of the company's contract under this amendment has been made by the Urban League, the Workers Councils and the Union Mechanics Association.

The subcommittee also heard the testimony of the Rev. A. C. Powell, Jr., assistant pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church, on the refusal of Harlem merchants to hire Negroes in their stores. Declaring that Harlemites spent $150,000,000 annually here, the young minister supported the recent call of Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, for Harlemites to go back to the picket lines and boycott employers who refuse to hire Negroes.

The city itself was accused of discrimination by James Egert Allen, president of the New York branch of the N. A. A. C. P., who testified that 250 college trained Negroes who applied for work on the Municipal Subway were offered employment only as porters.

RALEIGH, N. C
NEWS OBSERVER

APR 27 1935

Doubling A Problem

Following the Harlem riots in New York last month in which several thousand enraged or frightened Negroes did battle with squads of police, some facts are beginning to come out which indicate the wretched conditions found in the area in which the combat took place. The New York Department of Health calls this area "the sore spot of the city"; and a bulletin issued by the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor reports that a survey of a typical block in this district shows 70 per cent of Negro tenants unemployed, 18 per cent sick, 60 per cent with rent unpaid, and 33 per cent on relief rolls. The clubs and cafes of the quarter, made famous by nocturnal revelers, are all in the hands of white owners, while during the depression the percentage of Negro property owners in the same area has fallen from 35 to five. At the same time a health survey in Pittsburgh shows that the tuberculosis death rate there is 247.3 per 100,000 Negroes against 40.9 for the whites.

The attempt, then, to convert the Negro into an urban, property-owning resident has failed. He is thrown back on the land. And the South, whence the Negro went North a few years ago to get rich quick, must be prepared to take him back. The effect, when the ensuing curtailment in northward migration is felt, will probably be apparent throughout the South, particularly where land is still relatively plentiful and cheap and even work is not so scarce as it is in the city.

This fact furnishes an additional reason for hastening those measures designed to relieve the present problem of tenants and share-croppers, for landless black men added to landless white men will double and intensify what is already a pressing question.

Riots-1935

New York

BATON ROUGE, LA.
STATE TIMES
APR 3 1935

MOB ACTION

No better illustration of how dangerous or how unjust mob law can be has been offered than the riots recently in Harlem, when the supposed death of a youth was "avenged" by shooting, looting, fighting and rioting. After the outbreak was under control it was revealed that the young man over whose untimely and brutal death the demonstration was made, was not dead at all; indeed he was not even injured.

Every time a mob arises, whether or not in the name of justice, an injustice is committed. The orderly processes of the law are far better as agents of ultimate justice than any emotional outbreak by a crazed and uncontrollable mob, urged on to destruction by an unreasoning lust. The mob and its depredations have long constituted a blot upon American history. Freedom is a valuable possession which can be maintained only by restraint, order and voluntary subjection to, and abiding faith in, law.

The mob in Harlem caused the injury of several people, resulted in large damage to property and cost the city of New York a considerable amount of money to suppress. And all because it was avenging a wrong which had not been committed.

Savannah, Ga., News
April 8, 1935

SPIRIT OF THE MOB

The riot that swept up and down the streets of New York's Harlem recently has been cited as an example of the way a mob acts. The human race has to cope with many enemies in its long struggle to work out a scheme for peaceful living, but the greatest enemy of all is the mob. A colored boy tried to pinch a 10-cent knife from a store counter. A floor walker collared him and the boy let out a few yells. An excitable woman saw and heard just enough to put her in a frenzied condition and she ran out into the street yelling that the boy had been killed. Pandemonium soon prevailed and a crowd of a thousand men and women swept into the store, yelling, fighting and turning things upside down. Police reserves came by the hundreds. There were dozens of fights. More than a hundred were arrested. Thousands of dollars damage was done to property. Meanwhile, the juvenile knife-stealer managed to jerk away from his captor and vanished unharmed.

In this riot of major proportions none of the participants knew the real circumstances which precipitated the trouble. It started literally from nothing. The mob spirit that can seize a few thousand people in one city is the same spirit that can and sometimes does seize whole nations, when hatred and panic get together. It sweeps dictators into power. It can inflict more misery and destruction than a generation can repair.

MANCHESTER, CONN.
HERALD

MAR 23 1935

HARLEM NEGRO

With commendable sagacity the newspapers of New York City resisted what must have been a natural temptation to play up the recent Harlem riot to the limit of safety. How narrowly the community escaped an enormous tragedy may be realized when it is remembered that a long time ago, when the metropolis was a small place in comparison with its present size, more than a thousand lives were lost in what—though it is known to history as the "draft riots" of Civil War times—was actually a race war; and the conditions existing in the great city today are many times more critical, fundamentally, than they were then.

Harlem contains three hundred thousand Negroes. Not one in a hundred of them has ever had an even break with the white population of the city. During the five years of the depression they have suffered bitterly from discrimination in employment. It is exceedingly doubtful that an equal number of people of any other racial or nationalistic grouping, colonized as these folks are, deprived and exploited as they have been, would have gone on as they have gone on from day to day through these hopeless years without some wild outbreak of hysteria long ago.

The fantastic way in which the hoodlumism of last Wednesday night began is in itself a sufficient indication that the whole outbreak came from the snapping of nerves held in restraint for years. It is a poor answer to the problem so suddenly thrust upon the notice of the great community to attribute the riots to the influence of communist agitators. The Negro population of Harlem had come to the point of explosion and it exploded. The howling dervishes of radicalism who seized upon the opportunity to fan the flames could not, in all probability, have mustered a three-man mob under any normal economic conditions. It would be a serious mistake to regard them as more than a mere incident in the Harlem problem.

There is something wistfully admirable about the character and temperament of the American Negro. That there are individuals who are still in a pretty primitive stage of development is true; but that is true too of races which have had infinitely more time and many times more opportunity for development. By and large the Negro asks but half a chance, has the capacity for contentment and happiness on much less than his "share," is almost utterly incapable of envy or continued malice. He is about the last person in the world to yield or even listen to the sour agitation of social inciters. But there are limits to even his carefree, fun loving, humorous temper.

This week's Harlem hysteria may have served a good purpose if it sets that community to thinking, very seriously indeed, about "doing something" about its forgotten black man—more forgotten and overlooked, it may well be, than any other neglected entity in the country. Easy as he is to get along with, unbitten by great ambitions, willing to leave leadership and high honors and wealth to his white neighbor if he can but be allowed to live his own life without too much accompaniment of misery and hunger, the Harlem negro is potential dynamite just the same.

New York—and the nation—have a problem there to solve. They better had.

Literary Digest. N.Y.

MAR 30 1935

Investigation of conditions in Harlem, New York's negro sector, was ordered by Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia after three men had died as a result of street fighting involving a crowd of more than 2,000.

While District Attorney William C. Dodge blamed Communists for the outbreak and pressed charges, negro leaders declared the real causes to be unemployment, exploitation and discrimination.

The incident which precipitated the disturbance was the rumor that a sixteen-year-old Puerto Rican boy, who had attempted to steal a ten-cent knife from a counter in a five-and-ten-cent store on the afternoon of March 19, had been severely beaten. Picketers from the radical Young Liberators' League carried signs and distributed literature declaring the boy had been maltreated. The accidental appearance of a hearse added fire to the rumors. The boy meanwhile was at home asleep.

In the morning, when the fighting was over, it was found that more than 100 Negroes and whites had been wounded from bullets, knives, clubs and stones, and windows of many stores were shattered.

New York Evening Post

? **APR 9 1935**

PLEDGE TO AID RIOT PROBE KEEPS NEGRO OUT OF JAIL

Abdul Ferry, twenty-seven, a Negro, of 2213 Fifth Avenue, was given a suspended sentence by Magistrate Greenspan in Night Court last night after being convicted of distributing handbills in Harlem, when he promised to appear before the Grand Jury investigation into last month's Harlem riot.

With Magistrate Greenspan on the bench were Assistant District Attorney Wahl and Lee Thompson Smith, foreman of the Grand Jury.

The circular was purported to have been issued by the Negro Industrial and Clerical Alliance and called for a mass meeting at Dunbar Palace, 2389 Seventh Avenue, to be addressed by Abdul Hamid, the so-called "Black Hitler of Harlem." The meeting was held last night without disturbance.

New York World Telegram

APR 9 1935

NEGRO FREED TO GIVE HIS VERSION OF RIOT

Arrested for Distributing "Black Hitler" Handbills.

Abdul Ferry, 27, a Negro, arrested for distributing handbills concerning the Harlem riot, was free today on his promise to appear as a witness before the Grand Jury investigating the riot.

Ferry, who said he lived at 2,313 Fifth Ave., was arrested at 135th St. and Lenox Ave. last night after, police say, several Negroes complained he was distributing handbills in an attempt "to start it all over again."

The handbills, headed "A Call to Action," advertised a speech by "the most talked about black man in the country, Abdul Hamid, called the Black Hitler" last night at Dunbar Palace, 2,389 Seventh Ave.

Ferry was given a suspended sentence by Magistrate Benjamin Greenspan in Night Court.

BOSTON, MASS.
RECORD

APR 5 1935

Letters From Our Readers

HARLEM RIOT

The Harlem riot brings out into the open the true condition of the people in that sector of the city of New York.

Harlem is the largest Negro district in the United States. In common with the rest of the country it has been victimized by depression, unemployment, bad housing and poverty. No wonder the Communists have long regarded it as an ideal ground for agitation.

The crux of the matter is summarized in an editorial in "The New York Amsterdam News," cited by a Negro welfare organization, as follows:

"If you shut off a man's chance at a good job you dull his sense of ethics. If you despise him as a social and economic outcast you have done your best to make him act like one. If employers and trade unions would throw open their doors to Negro workers there would be far less Negro crime in Harlem and elsewhere."

SAMUEL COHEN.

Providence, R. I.

Bronx, N.Y. Home News

APR 9 - 1935

Three Colored Men Are Jailed for Riot Looting

Three colored men, one a paroled convict, were found guilty yesterday by General Sessions Judge Donnellan of looting stores during the Harlem riot on March 20 and sentenced to serve terms in the Workhouse.

Six-month terms were imposed on Thomas Jackson, 34, 253 W. 131st St., who stole $100 worth of merchandise from the Garmise Smoke Shop, 1916 Seventh Ave., and Joseph Wade, 24, 148 W. 127th St., an ex-convict, who stole $700 in goods from another store at 101 W. 127th St.

Nezekial Wright, 36, 155 W. 123d St., who stole four lamps and some food from Sarah Rifkin's store at 2067 Seventh Ave., was given a three-month term.

Edward J. Corsi, director of the City Emergency Relief Bureau, denied yesterday that the riot was attributable to discrimination in the bureau against colored families. Speaking before the International Institute Committee of Management of the Y. W. C. A. at 94 Joralemon St., Brooklyn, Corsi said:

"Of the 15,000 families on the relief rolls in Harlem, 60 per cent are Negroes. They were given the opportunity to have a 100 per cent Negro staff in that office, but they refused to have it. Now they have a staff of more than half Negroes in that office."

HARLEM RIOT PROBE IS NOW IN A MUDDLE

Call

Police Are Blamed; Many Think First Outbreak Is Just Warning

4-19-35

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—In the relief situation muddle which is now embarrassing the present city administration, arises the inquiry being conducted by Mayor La Guardia's committee into the riot of three weeks ago.

The fault is being placed at the door of the police department. Saturday's inquiry left no doubt in the minds of the crowd which attended the hearing that more diplomatic handling of the situation when it first arose would have avoided the five deaths and a half a million dollar damage perpetrated in the streets following the outbreak.

Many believe that the first outbreak is but a warning of what will follow at an early date if something isn't done to relieve the tenseness of the situation.

Reach No Solotion

However, no developments toward the solution of the affair have been openly arrived at to report to the mayor. Only various factions still quarrel among themselves as to who shall have representation on committees.

White newspapers offering solutions, state in their columns that jobs for colored workers should be made in the section, yet they make no effort to hire competent or qualified news writers at a living wage. They just leave the ballyhoo for someone else to do it, whereas several well known writers have applied to write papers for positions.

One was told that while there was open discrimination practiced, the very fact that the applicant saw no Negro men or women working at news or editorial desks indicated that a tacit agreement prevented Negro news writers from being empolyed.

One white newspaper has a correspondent living in the Negro Y. M. C. A. where he is supposed to absorb the Negro man's viewpoint and furnish his paper with local color on all stories pertaining to Harlem.

Open charges that the relief work has been withheld from Negro workers is finding its way into newspapers and that discrimination is openly practiced.

KERNOCHAN WARNS OF HARLEM'S NEEDS

Overcrowding and Other Evils Becoming Worse, He Says in Urban League's Report.

Times

RETURN TO FARMS AIDED

4-15-35

Reversal of Negro Migration Is Sought—Schieffelin Asks Far-Reaching Survey.

In a foreword to the annual report of the New York Urban League, a Negro organization, made public yesterday, Chief Justice Frederic Kernochan of Special Sessions declared that overcrowding and lack of adequate recreational and convalescent facilities in Harlem were responsible for the riots there last month.

"Conditions facing the Negro in New York are indefinitely worse today than those which confronted him at the establishment of the league fifteen years ago," Justice Kernochan said.

"The Negro in New York is not any more of a lawbreaker than others. He is probably much more patriotic than many of our foreign groups—for it must be borne in mind that America is the only home he has. Stories of employment in New York and easy living in Harlem have caused hordes of agricultural laborers to leave the farms and concentrate here."

Justice Kernochan is the chairman of the executive committee of the league.

According to the report, the Urban League expects a still greater influx of Negroes to New York from southern rural sections despite the lack of employment here. The report pointed out that a study just completed in several counties in Virginia showed that a large number of young persons had announced their intention of leaving the farms for the cities.

In an effort to reverse the tide, the league is attempting to help unemployed Negro families in New York to move back to the farms.

A symposium on the causes of the Harlem outbreak was held yesterday afternoon under the auspices of the Adult Education Project of the Board of Education at the 135th Street Y. M. C. A., 180 West 135th Street. More than 100 persons, mostly Negroes, attended.

The speakers were William J. Schieffelin, a trustee of Tuskeegee University and a member of the Mayor's commission on conditions in Harlem; C. B. Jenkins, Negro radical, and Elmer Carter, editor of Opportunity Magazine. All agreed that the immediate cause of the outbreak was the economic plight of the Negro population.

Mr. Schieffelin insisted, however, that the conditions would not be cured "in a minute" and that complete understanding was necessary before a final solution could be reached.

Miami, Fla. Herald
May 10, 1935

HARLEM PROBES

TWO months ago New York had a race riot in its negro section of Harlem. The affair became a subject of investigation by the mayor, who named a commission to inquire into the conditions in the Harlem section of the city.

People of the Southland, singled out in the Costigan anti-lynching bill as prone to subject the negro to mistreatment, will be amused to learn what the hearings have brought out through negro testimony.

Arthur Garfield Hays presided at a hearing on the causes of the riot. The chairman was forced to adjourn the meeting until order was restored as a result of negro demonstrations against the police. The police were charged by witnesses with brutality to the blacks on the night of the riot.

Another subcommittee, presided over by a negro commissioner of taxes, heard negroes testify they had been discriminated against in PWA projects and other employment, both municipal and federal in the city.

Whether the accusations of the negroes of Harlem are founded in fact or fancied grievance, the Southerner listens to the charges of physical abuse and discrimination against the colored race in the Northern metropolis with arched eyebrows and a questioning smile.

The South may wonder after all whether the negro is not better off mentally and physically in Dixie.

New York

Riots - 1935

THE HARLEM RIOT

A boy of Porto Rican parentage was caught stealing a pocket-knife in a 5 and 10 cent store on 125th Street. The report was circulated that he had been roughly treated by employees and was dead. Professional agitators quickly took advantage of an opportunity to inflame the populace, distributing posters exaggerating the seriousness of the lad's condition and exhorting "Negro and white workers" to avenge any assault committed in a place of business hostile to the employment of Negro help.

Giving the public the impression that the boy had died from effects of injuries sustained, the radicals began to riot, breaking windows, knocking down and injuring pedestrians and indulging in other unwarranted acts of violence. Even the police were attacked with missiles. The mob, led by those who revel in and thrive on disorder, ruthlessly destroyed property on both sides of 125th Street from Lenox to Eighth Avenues, also north on Lenox, Seventh and Eighth Avenues. With the arrest of three young white men and one colored, accused by the police as instigators, together with other mobsters, the disturbance was quelled.

It is an old American custom to engage in official investigation following some tragic public event. When there is an appalling mishap at sea an inquiry is instituted. A disastrous fire, railroad or bus accident evokes similar action. Ofttimes, had the authorities displayed more foresight than hindsight the catastrophies never would have occurred.

It, therefore, was to be expected that a post mortem would be held on the "Harlem Riot," although there are hundreds of residents in the section conversant with the underlying contributory causes. This step was necessary as the City Hall does not appear to be familiar with the social and economic conditions vitally affecting the community.

Either local authorities are unaware of or indifferent to the fact that Harlem has too many juvenile delinquents who are petty thieves. They pilfer stores, delivery wagons and have the temerity to snatch purses from female motorists by jumping on the running board while cars stop for the red light. The day following the riot, a colored woman was drinking soda in a drug store at 125th Street and Eighth Avenue. Two boys came off the street and asked for a drink of water. Not having touched her water the woman gave one of the boys her glass. While the obliging attendant's back was turned and he was filling another glass both boys grabbed a handful of lump sugar and ran. What is being done by officialdom to curb juvenile crime which has demonstrated its alarming potentialities as a breeder of tumult and strife?

Throughout the summer and fall of 1934 soap-box agitators stood on Harlem street-corners and made incendiary speeches. Their views on current questions, no matter how radical, were not seriously criticized; but some resorted to personalities, defaming and ridiculing leaders of the community and presenting them in a false light. Because of the city administration's ultra-liberal interpretation of the right of free speech, the police were not permitted to stop these vilifiers. It was not until Jewish merchants vigorously complained about the slanderous tirade against them in general that official attention was paid to the charge that these orators were subtly seeking to arouse class, race and religious hatreds and were a menace. What will be the attitude of the local government toward the soap-box speakers with the coming of warmer weather is conjectural.

An organization of Harlem merchants importuned the Governor to send troops to the scene of disturbance. As Mr. Lehman rightly advised, there was no urgent need for such action. Commissioner Valentine and his men have demonstrated they can cope with the situation. The merchants were justified in registering protest the police were none too zealous in protecting their property from the mob; but it must be borne in mind that they were still obeying instructions issued by the Mayor in the taxi strike, which was: To deal gently with the trouble-makers. Thus hamstrung, guardians of the law were puzzled as to how far to go in stopping the rioters without incurring the censure of Mr. LaGuardia. Given a free rein, they could have mastered the outbreak in its incipiency.

The downright refusal of certain business enterprises to employ colored clerks despite the large, and usually preponderance of race patronage, is a condition viewed generally with marked dissatisfaction among Harlem Negroes. On this subject there is a unanimity of thought, but a difference of opinion exists as to the proper and most effective method of securing economic recognition. A few ultra-radicals urge force and bulldozing tactics while the large majority favor and advocate the waging of a fight to obtain their objective by lawful and peaceful methods.

The Kress Store where the knife-stealing precipitated the disturbance, has stubbornly refused to recede from its policy of drawing the color line in the employment of clerks. The argument advanced that its colored clientele is larger tha its white has not prompted the management to assume a more liberal and fair-minded attitude. This concern and others have unwittingly played into the hands of professional agitators and furnished fuel for the conflagration that unexpectedly burst forth on March 19. It cannot be denied that they have unintentionally contributed to Harlem's economic unrest which is a problem of no minor significance.

In all fairness to allegations of color discrimination by Emergency Relief, while it may be true that Negroes are entitled to more administrative and key positions with various agencies statistics show that the home relief station in West 135th street is one of the largest, if not the largest, in the city. More than 40,000 home relief cases have come under its supervision at one time; and there is another relief station in Harlem. If it is proven that a number of the rioters are on the lief they should be held up as glaring examples of ingratitude.

The outbreak is deeply deplored by the great majority living in Harlem, who are thankful that it was instigated largely by non-residents and cannot be called a "race riot." From it a most valuable lesson should be learned. If the city administration is in the mood to adopt preventive measures instead of displaying an active interest "after the horse has broken out of the stable," a recurrence of what transpired last week is most unlikely; at least not soon. If merchants doing business in the community are sincerely desirous of promoting friendly relationships and at the same time increase their volume of trade, let them give better economic opportunities to those who make possible the keepig open of their doors.

Colored and white people have been getting along amicably and peacefully for years in Harlem. This bond of good will should be forged stronger by mutual cooperation and understanding, and not weakened by suspicion, misunderstanding and those forces which make for anarchy and confusion.

Riots - 1935

New York

THE HARLEM RIOT

A boy of Porto Rican parentage was caught stealing a pocket-knife in a 5 and 10 cent store on 125th Street. The report was circulated that he had been roughly treated by employees and was dead. Professional agitators quickly took advantage of an op- portunity to inflame the populace, distribut- ing posters and shouting the serious- the lad's condition and offering and white workers" to avenge any assault committed in a place of business hostile to the employment of Negro help.

Giving the public the impression that the boy had died from effects of injuries sus- tained, the radicals began to riot, breaking windows, knocking down and injuring pedes- trians and indulging in other unwarranted acts of violence. Even the police were at- tacked with missiles. The mob, led by those who revel in and thrive on disorder, ruth- essly destroyed property on both sides of 125th Street from Lenox to Eighth Avenues, also north on Lenox, Seventh and Eighth Avenues. With the arrest of three young white men and one colored, accused by the police as instigators, together with other mobsters, the disturbance was quelled.

It is an old American custom to engage in official investigation following some tragic public event. When there is an appalling mishap at sea an inquiry is instituted. A disastrous fire, railroad or bus accident evokes similar action. Oftimes, had the au- thorities displayed more foresight than hind- sight the catastrophies never would have occurred.

It, therefore, was to be expected that a post-mortem would be held on the "Harlem Riot," although there are hundreds of residents in the section conversant with the underlying contributory causes. This step was necessary he City Hall does not appear to be familiar with the social and economic conditions y affecting the community.

Either local authorities are unaware of ndifferent to the fact that Harlem has too many juvenile delinquents who are petty thieves. They pilfer stores, delivery wagons and have the temerity to snatch purses from hamstrung, guardians of the law were puzzled as to how far to go in stopping the rioters without incurring the censure of Mr. La- Guardia. Given a free rein, they could have mastered the outbreak in its incipiency.

The downright refusal of certain business enterprises to employ colored clerks despite the large, and usually preponderance of race patronage, is a condition viewed generally with marked dissatisfaction among Harlem Negroes. On this subject there is a unan- imity of thought, but a difference of opinion exists as to the proper and most effective method of securing economic recognition. A few ultra-radicals urge force and bulldozing tactics while the large majority favor and ad- vocate the waging of a fight to obtain their objective by lawful and peaceful methods.

Their The Kress Store where the knife-stealing precipitated the disturbance, has stubbornly refused to recede from its policy of drawing the color line in the employment of clerks. The argument advanced that its colored clien- tele is larger tha its white has not prompted the management to assume a more liberal and fair-minded attitude. This concern and others have unwittingly played into the hands of professional agitators and furnished fuel for that unexpectedly burst forth on March 19. It cannot be denied that the conflagration was not until Jewish merchants vigorously tirade against them in general that official attention was paid to the charge that these orators were responsible for such a tirade of slanderous statistics show that the home relief station in West 135th street is one of the largest, in the city. More than 40,000 home relief cases have come under its supervision at one time; and there is another relief station in Harlem. If it is proven that a number of the rioters are on the relief rolls they should be held up as glaring ex- amples of ingratitude.

The outbreak is deeply deplored by the great majority living in Harlem, who are thankful that it was instigated largely by non-residents and cannot be called a "race riot." From it a most valuable lesson should be learned. If the city administration is in the mood to adopt preventive measures instead of displaying an active interest "after the horse has broken out of the stable," a recurrence of what transpired last week is most unlikely; at least not soon. If merchants doing busi- ness in the community are sincerely desirous of promoting friendly relationships and at the same time increase their volume of trade, To deal gently with the trouble-makers. Thus the law were puzzled as to how far to go in stopping the rioters the censure of Mr. La- Guardia, they could have mastered the outbreak in its incipiency.

The downright refusal of certain business enterprises to employ colored clerks despite the large, and usually preponderance of race patronage, is a condition viewed generally with marked dissatisfaction among Harlem Negroes. On this subject there is a unan- imity of thought, but a difference of opinion exists as to the proper and most effective method of securing economic recognition. A few ultra-radicals urge force and bulldozing tactics while the large majority favor and ad- vocate the waging of a fight to obtain their objective by lawful and peaceful methods.

Their The Kress Store where the knife-stealing precipitated the disturbance, has stubbornly refused to recede from its policy of drawing the color line in the employment of clerks. The argument advanced that its colored clien- tele is larger tha its white has not prompted the management to assume a more liberal and fair-minded attitude. This concern and others have unwittingly played into the hands of professional agitators and furnished fuel for that unexpectedly burst forth on March 19. It cannot be denied that the conflagration was not until Jewish merchants vigorously tirade against them in general that official attention was paid to the charge that these orators were responsible for such a tirade of slanderous statistics show that the home relief station in West 135th street is one of the largest, in the city. More than 40,000 home relief cases have come under its supervision at one time; and there is another relief station in Harlem. If it is proven that a number of the rioters are on the relief rolls they should be held up as glaring ex- amples of ingratitude.

The outbreak is deeply deplored by the great majority living in Harlem, who are thankful that it was instigated largely by non-residents and cannot be called a "race riot." From it a most valuable lesson should be learned. If the city administration is in the mood to adopt preventive measures instead of displaying an active interest "after the horse has broken out of the stable," a recurrence of what transpired last week is most unlikely; at least not soon. If merchants doing busi- ness in the community are sincerely desirous of promoting friendly relationships and at the same time increase their volume of trade, let them give better economic opportunities to those who make possible the keepig open of their doors.

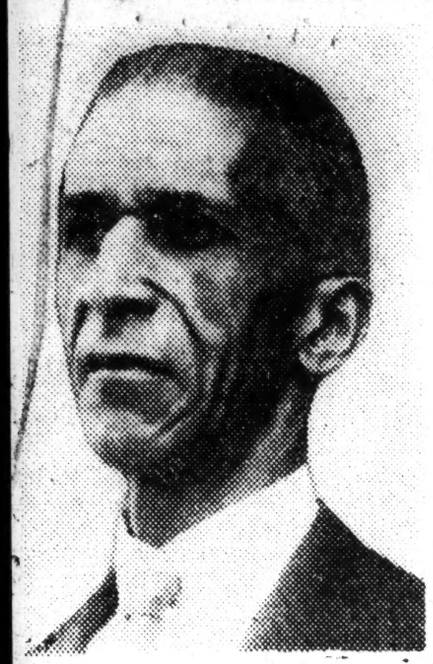
Colored and white people have been getting along amicably and peacefully for years in Harlem. This bond of good will should be forged stronger by mutual cooperation and understanding, and not weakened by suspi- cion, misunderstanding and those forces which make for anarchy and confusion.

An organization of Harlem merchants im- administrative and key positions with vari- ous agencies statistics show that the home relief station in West 135th street is one of the largest, in the city. More than 40,000 home relief cases have come under its supervision at one time; and there is another relief station in Harlem. If it is proven that a number of the rioters are on the relief rolls they should be held up as glaring ex- amples of ingratitude.

The outbreak is deeply deplored by the great majority living in Harlem, who are thankful that it was instigated largely by non-residents and cannot be called a "race riot." From it a most valuable lesson should be learned. If the city administration is in the mood to adopt preventive measures instead of displaying an active interest "after the horse has broken out of the stable," a recurrence of what transpired last week is most unlikely; at least not soon. If merchants doing busi- ness in the community are sincerely desirous of promoting friendly relationships and at the same time increase their volume of trade, let them give better economic opportunities to those who make possible the keepig open of their doors.

Colored and white people have been getting along amicably and peacefully for years in Harlem. This bond of good will should be forged stronger by mutual cooperation and understanding, and not weakened by suspi- cion, misunderstanding and those forces which make for anarchy and confusion.

Heads Committee



Dr. Charles Roberts.

POLICE STILL ON RIOT DUTY

Harlem Remains Quiet but Reserves Are Kept on Streets

3-30-35

Riot squads and scores of "borrowed" patrolmen, afoot and mounted, were still on duty in Harlem yesterday, prepared for any new outbreak, although the community has been quiet since last Tuesday's rioting. Three people lost their lives as a result of the riot.

Lino Rivera, the 16-year-old Puerto Rican youth, who was charged with filching a pocket knife in the Kress department store and precipitating a riot when a women screamed that the youth was being beaten in the manager's office, was araigned last Friday before Magistrate Bernard A. Kozicke in Adolescents Court in Brooklyn. The youth, charged with using a slug in a subway turnstile, pleaded guilty.

"You went to the store to steal while you were out on parole," Magistrate Kozike said. "You actually did something worse than cause the loss of life; you precipitated the flaming up of racial feeling. We live beside our colored brethren in harmony and it should be that way. I don't see how you are entitled to any consideration. You broke your promise and set a spark to a powder machine. Can I trust you if I give you a chance again?"

"Yes, sir," said Rivera. "I'll go straight."

Magistrate Kozicke placed the youth on probation Wednesday. Rivera's school record revealed he had played hookey from school several times and had forged excuses twice. The publicity he received from the riot has brought him two offers to go on the stage, his friends revealed.

Three Dead.

Meanwhile the death toll of the riot was increased to three on Saturday with the death of Andrew Lyons, 37, of 147 West 117th street, at Harlem Hospital. He succumbed to injuries sustained during the thick of a melee at 125th street and Seventh avenue. The other riot victims are 19-year-old James Thompson, felled by a policeman's bullet when the officer's gun went off accidentally during the rioting, and August Miller, 27, white, of 1674 McCombs road, the Bronx, who died of a skull fracture last Friday in the Hospital for Joint Diseases.

Margaret Mitchell, 181-283 West 150th street, screamed when Rivera was seized in the Kress store, and who was charged with disorderly conduct in stirring up the mob, was found guilty and was fined $10 by Magistrate Renaud in Harlem Court on Saturday.

Musician Held.

Claude Jones, 24, of 170 West 121st street, described by police as an ace trombonist in Fletcher Henderson's orchestra, was held on Wednesday in $1,000 bail for the grand jury. He allegedly urged a mob to smash the windows of a store at 230 West 125th street and to have shouted, "Kill the cops. Colored blood is being spilled; let us spill some white blood."

District Attorney Dodge, who announced early this week that he had secured seventeen grand jury indictments in connection with the riot, was bitterly criticized yesterday for using the criminal anarchy law in connection with the cases. Arthur Garfield Hays, member of Mayor La-Guardia's committee to investigate conditions in Harlem, said the law was only used when the government wanted to "get a man." A similar charge was made by Eugene P. Connolly, chairman of the Knickerbocker Committee on Social and Economic Problems.

Three Plead Guilty.

Three of those indicted by the grand jury on burglary charges, Thomas Jackson, Jsoeph Wade and Hezekiah Wright is 36 and lives at 15[illegible] charges before Judge Donellan in General Sessions Tuesday and were remanded for sentence on April 8. Wright, who is 36, and lives at 15[illegible] West 123d street.

Harry Gordon, 20, white, of 69[illegible] Prospect avenue, arrested as one of a number of men who picketed the Kress store with inflammatory plates, was held in $1,000 bail by Magistrate Ford on Wednesday for trial in Special Sessions, charged with assaulting Patrolman Young of the West 135th street station.

Gordon and four other companions were also indicted by the grand jury on charges of inciting to riot. The others are Murray Samuels, 19, of 8621 Twentieth avenue, Brooklyn; Sam Jameson, 29, of 917 East 178th street; Daniel Miller, 21, of 35 Morningside avenue, and Claudio Diabolo, 39, of 202 West 132d street. All are white except Diabolo.

Albert Carter, 30, white, of 131 Bowery, arrested when he refused to leave the corner of 125th street and Lenox avenue, where he was selling copies of the Daily Worker, was found guilty of disorderly conduct and released with a suspended sentence by Magistrate Ford in Harlem Court on Monday. John Donnelly, 35, white, accused of interfering with the patrolman who arrested Carter was discharged.

NEW YORK JOURNAL

MAY 4 1935

Stormy Session at Harlem Riot Hearing Balks Investigators

Sub-committee of the Mayor's Commission on Conditions in Harlem continued their probe of the Harlem riots of March 19 and 20 today but unruly and obstructionist audiences at the hearings virtually prevented the discovery of any facts.

Testimony from Benjamin Codman, an undertaker's chauffeur, called by Arthur Garfield Hays' sub-committee on actual events of the riots, was delayed for more than an hour while Charles Romney, Negro secretary of the Civil Rights Protective Association, and others launched another attack on Samuel J. Battle, only Negro lieutenant in the Police Department. Romney was given a 60-day suspended sentence about 10 days ago for disorderly conduct at one of the hearings.

A Negro woman in the audience arose to say she knew the name of a woman who was a witness to the events in the Kresge 125th st. store which are said to have precipitated the riots. When Hays asked her for the name, Romney jumped up and shouted:

"We won't release the name as long as you keep that police stool pigeon here."

He was referring to Battle.

Order was finally restored after Hays had threatened to adjourn the hearing unless those who were obstructing its work left the room.

Codman then testified he had driven past the Kresge store with an empty hearse on his way back to his place of employment on the afternoon of the riots. The riots were started by a report that the body of a Negro youth had been taken from the store in a hearse.

three weeks ago, carried with it the suggestion that Prof. Ira DeA. Reid of Atlanta University, formerly of the National Urban League, be secured to direct the investigations and compile the findings.

Prof. Reid, it is understood, was being considered for the post, but following the Rosenwald suggestion, the commission chose Dr. E. Franklin Frazier of Howard University.

This rejected offer is being interpreted here as additional evidence of the desire of the Rosenwald Fund to control all policies relating to Negroes. The aims of the fund in this direction have been subjected to searching analysis by Loren Miller in an article published in a recent number of The Masses.

"We are seeking to make a fair and impartial investigation of conditions," Dr. Roberts said. "We are smothering the testimony of no one. We want the truth. Nor are we waiting until the completion of the investigation to make recommendations. We are making recommendations as we go along."

Dr. Roberts denied the rumor that Mrs. Eunice Hunton Carter was receiving a salary of $65 a week as secretary of the commission. No member of the commission receives a cent for services, he said.

REJECT MONEY OF ROSENWALD

"Outside Influence" Is Scored in Quiz on Outbreak

5-13-35

An offer by the Rosenwald Fund of Chicago to underwrite the Mayor's Commission investigating conditions in Harlem to the extent of $5,000 has been rejected, it was learned here yesterday.

Questioned by The Amsterdam News, Charles H. Roberts, chairman of the commission, admitted that the offer had been made and rejected. "The commission," he said, "does not wish to be subject in any way to any outside influence."

Although Dr. Roberts refused further comment, it is understood that the Rosenwald offer which was made

Riots - 1935

New York

SANFORD, FLA.
HERALD
MAR 29 1935

Harlem's Negroes

Time was when Southern negroes were lured to Northern cities by glowing promises of easy work, high wages and so-called racial equality. Colored journals having wide circulation among Southern negroes, industrial propaganda from the North, and even brothers and sisters who had strayed away from home, brought back glowing reports of the blackamoo's gay white way.

As a result thousands of the South's best workers of the "cotton nigger" type heard the call and trekked northward. They settled in Northern cities from Boston to Chicago, and though wholly unsuited to the climatic and industrial conditions, became convinced that a great future lay before them. Pampered, betrayed, propagandized to the limit, they were all to become Duke Ellingtons, Jack Johnsons, or Paul Robesons. But all is not gold that glitters.

The negro district of New York City is known as Harlem. A New York newspaper characterized it the other day as the "hungriest, unhealthiest and most wretched section of New York." There, last week, hundreds of negroes, stirred up by white communist tirades over the alleged beating of a negro boy shoplifter, which never occurred, a race riot ensued, in which several persons were killed and scores injured.

As a consequence of this incident, welfare workers began an investigation of the Harlem district disclosing conditions which would not be tolerated in the most backward of Southern communities. According to the report of the investigation committee "Harlem has suffered more during the past few years than any other part of the world." There are more than 250,000 negroes now living in Harlem and only 12,500 have employment of any kind.

With unemployment has come the attending evils—infant mortality, disease, undernourishment—and thus in Harlem the death and disease rates, always the highest in the city, have jumped during the depression further and further above the rates for greater New York. In 1929 the death rate for New York City was 11 for each 1,000 of population. Now, after five years of depression, Harlem's death rate has risen to 18.15 while the city rate has dropped.

Contributory to disease to as great an extent as undernourishment are the housing conditions of Harlem. The buildings on the whole are too cold in winter, too hot in summer, too small at all times, and in many cases devoid of heat, hot water or light. The rents are high out of all proportion, thanks to the racial barriers set up around the district. Many of the homes are firetraps. Many should have been condemned long ago, for according to John E. Nail, Harlem's most successful real estate owner, they are "not fit for dogs."

The natural results of such conditions are the inevitable crime, disease, and discontent. Harlem is said to be a veritable hotbed of communism. Few if any of the negroes now there are satisfied with their conditions. After reading the report of the welfare committee, it would seem that the really smart negroes were the ones who resisted the lure of the North a few years ago and stayed at home where their problems are better understood and appreci-

WICHITA FALLS, TEX.
TIMES

MAR 30 1935

THE NEGRO IN NEW YORK CITY

The recent rioting in the negro section of Harlem, in New York City, directs attention to that unique community, by far the largest negro settlement in the world, and to the status of the negro in the metropolis.

The negro community covers about two square miles, with a population of about 250,000. One sees negro policemen guarding its streets, negro teachers conducting its schools, negro doctors ministering to its sick; negro bankers, negro merchants and negro lawyers serve it. The community as a negro center dates back to about 1900, but it was not until about 1920, soon after the war, that the northward trek of so many southern negroes gave it the rapid growth and development that made it the world's largest negro community.

The plight of the negro in New York City has not been altogether a happy one. The first race riot in that city was in 1712, when 21 negroes were executed after being found guilty of plotting to massacre the whites and burn the city. Another such plot was discovered in 1741, and 32 negroes were executed, 14 of them by burning.

The riots incident to the conscription law in 1863 claimed many negro victims. A negro orphan asylum was burned, many negr es were lynched and numerous negro homes were burned, by the mobs.

In 1900 the killing of a white detective by a negro precipitated one of the worst riots in the city's history, and many negroes were killed before the trouble was quelled.

Harlem's negro population increased rapidly, and race disturbances and troubles were few, in the years from 1900 to 1929. The depression, however, brought troubles which in many instances made the New York negro worse off than the negro in the South. Many who had bought property at prosperity prices lost by foreclosure. Many, of course, lost their jobs and went on the relief rolls. Comparatively few, it is said, returned to their earlier haunts in the South. Today there is much destitution, much suffering, conditions which provided a setting for the recent riots.

The inclination of negroes, especially the younger ones, to remain in the North, is due in part to the more favorable political status which they enjoy and to the semblance of equality which is vouchsafed them as a result of their political power. Conditions incident to the depression have made the negro problem in the North much more acute than formerly. The negro has found that he is the first to be dropped from the pay roll when business slackens, and the last to be replaced on it when conditions improve. He has found that the attitude of white people generally, while outwardly more friendly than in the South, has much of selfishness in it and little of sincerity. And that racial prejudice is something which laws cannot eradicate or ameliorate. It has been rather convincingly shown that residence in the north created a new problem for the negro for every problem that it solved.

SIOUX FALLS, S. D.
~~PRESS~~
Argus Leader
MAR 23 1935

The Urge To Destroy

In the nation today there seems to be a group of men whose mission is to destroy. Several strikes have been precipitated by agitators whose motives were destruction instead of better working conditions or wages. The Harlem riot was inspired, dispatches indicate, by a person or persons whose objective was the promotion of ill-will. Flood embankments in the South have been dynamited by vandals for no decent reason. Other sporadic outbreaks over the country carry a similar impression of a desire to destroy.

A major task of the nation is the fighting of these impulses. Free speech and individual privilege do not include the right to destroy. We may talk as much as we please about the advantages of other governmental forms but we must confine our efforts toward a change to the one civilized method—the ballot box.

NORFOLK, NEB.
DAILY NEWS

MAR 25 1935

A SORE SPOT

Harlem's black riot which left in its wake broken heads, fire-gutted buildings and looted stores, has served a useful purpose in calling general attention to one of the sore spots in America's largest city.

The Negroes of Harlem, investigations since the trouble have brought out, are in a bad way. With 250,000 Negroes crowded into black belt tenements—about 62,500 potential workers—investigators find only about 12,000 with jobs. Allowing for the percentage that cannot or will not work, even under normal conditions, the figures show a distressing situation.

"With unemployment," says a writer in the Herald-Tribune "has come the attending evils—infant mortality, disease, undernourishment—and thus in Harlem the death and disease rates, always the highest in the city, have jumped during the depression further and further above the rates for greater New York. In 1929 the death rate for New York City was 11 for each 1,000 of population. In Harlem it was 14.8 per 1,000. Now, after five years of depression, Harlem's death rate has risen to 18.15 while the city rate has dropped."

Even this does not tell the whole story. In one section of Harlem, known as "the sore spot," the death rate exceeds 21 per thousand. The death rate from tuberculosis in Harlem is rising, elsewhere it is falling. Infant mortality rates are so high as to indicate an inexcusable situation.

The Negro, first to be fired and last to be hired, meets his slim purse by bunching up in family groups. In some instance as many as five families are occupying the same squalid tenement. Speakeases tempt the man who has a little money to dissipate it, and the "numbers" game, which is called Harlem's chief racket, lure him to gamble at odds of 1,000 to 1 against him, with the few pennies he has in his pocket. The "rackets" are said to be white-man controlled. Resentment has been boiling up among the Negroes toward the whites and it took the mythical death of a black boy at the hand of whites to stir up the trouble.

Harlem is a long way from Nebraska, but conditions such as have been uncovered there are the concern of the whole nation. The Negroes, resentful as they see their families starve or die of preventable disease and feel the pangs of hunger themselves, become easy prey for Communistic and racial soap box orators. Even if we ignore our humane instincts we cannot afford to shut our eyes to the danger that lies in a condition such as exists in this black belt sore spot.

BATON ROUGE, LA.
ADVOCATE

MAR 28 1935

VERY LITTLE IS NEEDED TO ROUSE MOB SPIRIT

The human race has to cope with many enemies in its long struggle to work out a scheme for peaceful living, but the greatest enemy of all is the mob.

For a perfect picture of the way the mob acts, consider the riot that swept up and down the streets of New York's Harlem the other day.

A colored boy tried to pinch a ten-cent knife from a store counter. A floor-walker collared him and the boy, naturally enough, set up a holler. An excitable woman saw and heard just enough to touch off her motor reactions, and she ran out into the street yelling that the boy had been killed.

Up and down the streets went the cry. Out of poolrooms, lunchrooms, and workshops came angry men, milling in the streets, yelling, looking for someone to fight, afraid, suspicious, and angry. A crowd of a thousand men and women swept into the store, turning things upside down, breaking things, yelling, hitting, fighting.

Police reserves came, by the hundreds. There were dozens of fights. Scores of men were cut, beaten, or slugged. More than a hundred were arrested. Thousands of dollars' damage was done to property.

And the juvenile knife-stealer who unintentionally started it all managed to jerk away from his captors during the melee and vanished, utterly unharmed.

You could search the world over without finding a better example than this of the blind, panicky insanity of the mob spirit. Here was a riot of major proportions, an ugly welter of fights that spread all across a populous section of a great city—and all for what?

Not one of the rioters knew. They could not possibly have hoped to know. It started, literally, from nothing at all; and because men and women were jittery, and gave way to the combined emotions of anger and fear, there was merry Ned to pay.

Now you don't need to think very hard to draw the needed moral from all this. The mob spirit that can seize a few thousand people in one city is the same spirit that can and frequently does seize whole nations, when hatred and panic get together.

It sweeps dictators into power, causes mass executions, concentration camps, sluggings and clubbings; it fills the air with bombing planes and the fields with infantrymen and sets cruisers loose on the sea lanes; it inflicts more misery and destruction on the earth than a generation can repair.

And all, as in Harlem—for what?

THE SOUTHERN PRESS GLOATS

Southern newspapers have devoted much space to the so-called Harlem race riot which, strictly speaking, was not a race riot at all. Much space has been devoted to photographs, descriptions and comment, all designed to show by inference that conditions interracially are no worse in the South than in the North.

What the Southern newspapers have not said is that if the same thing had happened in Dixie, thousands of Negroes would have been killed and wounded by police, militia and posses, Negro residential areas would have been burned and the black victims of the white mob lust would have been hunted through alleys and by-ways like wild animals.

That the casualties were less than a half dozen, which is no more than they would have been had the rioters been white, is evidence of the fundamentally better race relations existing in New York City. There was no war between blacks and whites. There was breaking of windows, overturning of counters, battling of police and looting of shops, just as there was some years ago when starving black and white farmers raided the shops of England, Ark., for food. And the one occurrence was no more a race riot than the other.

The Southern newspapers would be performing a far greater social service if they would devote an equal amount of space to the deplorable economic and social conditions surrounding the Negro workers in Dixie. And agitate for the ending there of the far more deplorable economic and political discriminations against Negroes who dare not even think of revolting to remedy their condition.

Riots-1935

New York.

Continue Inquiry At Courthouse As Three Men Are Sentenced To Workhouse For Riot Activities

Age 4-13-35

New York Times

Doubt As To Rivera Being Boy Over Whom The Trouble Started Expressed By Crowd At Court; Langdon Post and Police Officials Testify

While the special investigating committee was laying the blame for the rioting in Harlem last month at the door of the police department, three men, one a convict paroled from Sing Sing, were sentenced to the Workhouse by General Sessions Judge George L. Donnellan Monday for participation in the riots. The three men gave their names as Joseph Wade, 24, of 148 West 127th street; Thomas Jackson, 34, of 253 West 131st street and Ezekiah Wright, 36, of 155 West 123rd street.

Wade, who police say was paroled from Sing Sing last December 10, pleaded guilty to theft of $70 worth of merchandise, including several toy pistols, from a sationary store at 101 West 127th street. He was sentenced to six months. Jackson, who admitted hurling a milk bottle through a store window six hours after the rioting began, was also given six months, while Wright received three months after pleading guilty to theft of four lamps and a quantity of food from a store at 2607 Seventh avenue.

Inquiry Continued

Sitting in their second session in one of the courtrooms of the Municipal Court in 151st street, the committee appointed by Mayor La Guardia placed the responsibility for the spread of the disorder of March 19, upon the shoulders of the police last Saturday, following testimony given by officers. At the same time, in another of the courtrooms, a subcommittee investigating the housing situation in Harlem, heared, among many witnesses, testimony of Langdon Post, Tenement House Commissioner. Morris Ernst presided at the latter hearing while Arthur Garfield Hayes again officiated at the riot hearing.

At the opening of the hearing Hayes read into the record a letter from District Attorney Dodge's office to Police Commissioner Valentine in which the police were ordered not to testify concerning any case pending in any court or before a grand jury.

"I am responsible for the careful preservation of any evidence of crime," he said. "The committee asked us for the evidence before the grand jury and we refused to produce it. I won't give out any evidence except to the court."

District Attorney Scored

In commenting on the letter, Hayes remarked that he didn't think that the attitude of the District Attorney was tenable and would probably be withdrawn.

At the hearing on housing conditions, Fred Benedict, representing the Unemployed Council of Upper Harlem, told of the poor living conditions that exist locally. Further information was contributed by Commissioner Post who commented on the fact that rents in Harlem are abnormally high.

Families pay 40 per cent and more of their income for rent, said Post and he further asserted that health conditions were worse than in any comparable area in the city. Low cost housing on a large scale with rooms renting from five to seven dollars a month, said Post, would be the only effective cure.

Definite indications of an unwillingness upon the part of the crowd to believe that no boy was killed in the Kress store was evidenced when Lino Rivera, the lad said to have been the cause of the outbreak, took the stand again and repeated his assertion that he had not been beaten or hurt in any way. His testimony was greeted with boos from the audience.

Crowd Still Skeptical

"He's a paid witness,' cried some. "He wasn't the only boy in the store," others shouted, while still others openly and audibly accused the police of covering up something.

FIFTH VICTIM OF HARLEM RIOT DIES IN HOSPITAL AS INVESTIGATION BY MAYOR'S COMMITTEE GETS UNDER WAY

Dead Youth's Father Will File Complaint Against Cop Who Shot Son; Police Baiting Features First Open Hearing Of Board Of Inquiry; Reds Pack Court

Before a courtroom crowded with persons both white and colored, the first public hearing of the Mayor's Committee appointed to investigate the recent Harlem riot got under way last Saturday at the Twelfth District Municipal Court, 447 West 151st street. Meanwhile Lloyd Hobbs. 16. of 321 St. Nicholas avenue, died of gunshot wounds in Harlem Hospital Saturday, the fifth known fatality resulting from the outbreak. Several others are still in a critical condition.

Hobbs was shot by Patrolman John F. McInerny of the West 123rd street station on the night of the riot, when it is said he failed to heed the officers command to halt. His father informed The Age Monday that he is filing a complaint against the policeman.

Age 4-13-35

New York Times

According to Lloyd's brother Russell, 15, who testified at the hearing, the two boys had left a theatre in 125th street and were on their way home when they were accosted by the policeman at 128th street and Seventh avenue. Fearful that they would be beaten, the boys started to run in different directions. When Lloyd failed to stop at his order, the officers drew his gun and fired, mortally wounding the lad. He was immediately removed to Harlem Hospital.

An investigation of this case was promised by Arthur Garfield Hayes, attorney for the Civil Liberties Union and member of the committee who presided at the hearing. Hayes also denounced the District Attorney's use of the Criminal Anarchy laws in seeking indictments as a result of the riot.

"These laws which sound alright on their faces," declared Hayes, are used in practice only when the government wants to 'get' a man. They are never used against Fascists."

The hearing itself was characterized by an air of unrest and incipient disorder on the part of the crowd which was greatly augmented by the presence and active participation in the proceedings of numerous lawyers representing various "left wing" organizations. A large part, if not the entire crowd of spectators also exhibited definite "radical" leanings and frequently interrupted the hearing with their audible comments and criticism.

Despite what appeared to be a determined effort on the part of several lawyers to flood the proceedings with radical propaganda, several points of interest were brought out during the hearing which lasted from 10:00 a. m., to 6:30 p. m. Efforts to discover the source of the circulars which were believed to have incited the crowd to violence resulted in the definite admission that they had been gotten out by the Young Liberators and the Communist Party, both of whom, however, denied that they had attempted to stir up any trouble and declared that they had merely attempted to "organize a protest" against the management of Kress.

Reds Deny Responsibility.

Reports that the Communists had taken the first steps in starting the actual violence were refuted, however, when a young woman, said to be an eyewitness of the affair mounted the stand and asserted that the first window in the Kress store was broken by a missle thrown before anybody had started to make a speech.

One of the most important revelations the day's testimony was the admission by one of the witnesses that Lino Rivera really does look like the boy who was the cause of the whole incident. This witness, asserting that he was in the store at the time of the occurrence, claimed to have seen the whole thing and when asked if Rivera was the right boy stated that "he looked like him."

Aftermath of the Rioting

THE MARCH 19 rioting produced such unfavorable publicity that business in 125th street has hit a new low, representative merchants contend. Some hold that they have lost 40 per cent of their white trade. They admit, however, that prolonged cool weather and slumps before the riot have contributed to the net results.

Poor business, of course, means lower payrolls, and lower payrolls mean less jobs. In the reductions Negroes, who were comparative newcomers in the clerical jobs, were the first to go in many cases. Others will be let out unless the situation improves.

It is wholly natural that a considerable number of colored and white former patrons should desert 125th street temporarily after the rioting. There is no reason why Negroes should not return where stores offer reasonable prices and employ Negroes, also. If we persist in taking our trade downtown, there will be no jobs in 125th street for colored or white workers. The immediate prospect of getting more employment downtown is even more remote.

INQUIRY ON HARLEM SCORED AS SHAM

Called a Mere 'Smoke-Screen' at a Noisy Hearing on Job Discrimination.

The Mayor's commission investigating conditions in Harlem was accused yesterday of being only a "smoke-screen" to cloak the real abuses that exist in that area, while Mr. La Guardia himself was called "insincere" when he appointed the commission.

The charges were made at a stormy hearing of the subcommittee on discrimination in employment, held at the Seventh District Municipal Court, 447 West 151st Street. There were bitter clashes between Hubert T. Delany, Negro chairman of the subcommittee, and representatives of civic organizations. Only by threatening to hold the hearings in private did Mr. Delany succeed in restoring order.

The first outbreak occurred shortly after the session had started. The small court room was filled and standees jammed even the doorways. George L. Cherry, chairman of the Porter's Council, a group of men employed on the city-owned Independent subway, had told of discrimination by the Board of Transportation, his principal complaint being that "we are the lowest-paid city employes although street cleaners doing similar work receive almost double our pay." The porters get $3.20 a day and the cleaners $5.50. he said.

Mr. Delany asked the witness if he thought the low pay caused some of the men to shirk their work, which evoked an uproar. Audley Moore of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights charged the chairman with "putting the witness in an unfavorable light." Other civic representatives jumped to their feet, all shouting at once. Miss Moore kept shouting "smoke-screen" and added: "You go right ahead, this investigation doesn't mean anything anyhow."

Mr. Delaney warned that "these subway workers are not to suffer for what a few are attempting to do here; unless order is maintained I'll hold these hearings in private." Then he read into the record a statement saying: "I am not trying to make this witness appear unfavorably but I know that if I felt I wasn't being paid what I thought I was worth I'd be tempted not to do my best."

The meeting then adjourned to the large vourtroom. Almost as soon as it had resumed it became disorderly. Robert T. Bess, president of the Rarlem division of the Peoples Alliance of Greater New York, Inc., jumped to his feet and shouted:

"The people of Harlem believe that the Mayor was not sincere when he appointed this commission. He had wanted it to unearth the true facts he would have granted it the power of subpoena and provided it with funds."

Mr. Bess's outburst greeted with riotous approvel, followed a question by one of the audience asking why Allen G. Armstrong, Superintendent of Stations for the Independent subway, had not appeared at the hearing to resume his examination. Mr. Delaney said he could not tell why Mr. Armstrong had failed to re-appear and said he had understood he would be present.

HAYS SCORES DODGE 'RED HUNT' ATTEMPT; OPEN HEARING IS SET

Ford Urges Big Turnout at Madison Sq. Garden Protest Meeting

Arthur Garfield Hays, member of Mayor LaGuardia's Committee to Investigate Conditions in Harlem, yesterday scored the drive launched by District Attorney William C. Dodge to invoke the criminal anarchy and deportation laws against Harlem workers arrested in connection with the March 19 outbreak against hunger conditions and relief and job discrimination against the Negro people of Harlem.

Hays announced at the same time that there would be an open hearing of the Mayor's Committee Saturday morning at 10 o'clock in the Seventh District Municipal Court at 447 West 151st Street. He invited all witnesses of Tuesday's events in Harlem, and those familiar with police terror in the community and other conditions leading up to the stormy events of March 19 in Harlem, to attend the hearing to testify.

Committee Cites Misery

Hays' criticism of Dodge and the city administration followed by a few hours a statement issued by Oswald Garrison Villard, in behalf of the Mayor's Committee, in which the committee traced the March 19 outbreak directly to the appalling suffering and misery imposed upon the Harlem masses by jim-crow discrimination in relief and refusal of white employers to hire Negroes in any capacity other than as porters and scrubwomen.

Elmer Carter, editor of the Negro magazine, Opportunity, and Rev. Clayton Powell, Jr., of Abyssinian Baptist Church, both members of the National Executive Committee of the American League Against War and Fascism, also denounced the attempt by Dodge and the city administration to terrorize the Negro population of Harlem.

The League Against War and Fascism and the American Civil Liberties Union has issued a joint call for a protest mass meeting Wednesday night, April 3, at the Madison Square Garden. The protest action was endorsed by James W. Ford, Harlem Organizer of the Communist Party, who late yesterday afternoon issued an appeal to all workers and enemies of fascism to rally to the protest demonstration next Wednesday night.

"The continued massing of police in the streets of Harlem," Ford declared, "and the beastly cold-blooded police murder of the Negro worker, Edward Laurie, go hand in hand with the LaGuardia-Dodge incitement against the Communist Party. The instructions of LaGuardia to the grand jury to institute a witch-hunt against Communists, and the threats of District Attorney Dodge of deportation and criminal anarchy proceedings against Harlem workers, are part of the general growth of fascisation in this country.

For a Mighty Demonstration

"It is the expression in New York City of the new crop of sedition legislation, of the Harlem, American Legion and Dickstein Committee which has proposed measures aimed at destroying the fundamental civil rights of the workers, and at outlawing the Communist Party and all working-class organizations.

"I appeal to all workers of New York, to all honest intellectuals and professionals, to all enemies of fascism, both Negro and white, to rally to the mass demonstration called by the Ameriacn League Against War and Fascism and the American Civil Liberties Union at Madison Square Garden next Wednesday.

"Make this a mighty united demonstration of tens of thousands for defense of the democratic rights of the workers against the LaGuardia Dodge attacks on the right of free speech, free assemblage, for the unlimited right of all working class organizations to function—against police attacks, discrimination and segregation of Negroes. For unity of Negro and white!"

The statement of the Mayor's Committee, issued after a secret meeting Monday night in the Seventh District Municipal Court at 447 West 151st Street, and from which the public and the press were barred, declares:

Committee Statement

"The committee is already agreed that the disturbance (of last Tuesday, which took a toll of three lives and extensive property damage) were merely symbols and symptoms; that the public health, safety and welfare in colored Harlem have long been jeopardized by economic and social conditions which the depression has intensified."

Translated into terms of the bitter experiences of the Negro people of Harlem, the committee's statement traces the outbreak directly to the widespread suffering, hunger conditions, pestilential housing and high rents, and jim-crow discrimination in relief and jobs against the Negro people of Harlem. This was the analysis made by James W. Ford, Communist leader in Harlem, on the very day following the outbreak of March 19. These are the conditions exposed daily in the columns of the Daily Worker for the past week.

Committee Mum

At Monday's secret session of the committee, Dr. Charles A. Roberts of 233 West 139th Street was elected chairman of the committee. Interviewed yesterday by a Daily Worker reporter, Dr. Roberts stated he had no authority to speak for the committee, that it had agreed at yesterday's session that its reports would first go through the hands of the city administration. Asked if the press would be admitted at the next meeting of the committee, called for this Friday night, Dr. Roberts said he "didn't know." He thought there would be several public hearings, but indicated that the secret sessions would take up most of the time of the committee.

Asked why the committee had failed to demand an autopsy on the body of Edward Laurie, the Negro worker murdered by a white policeman early last Saturday morning, Dr. Roberts replied, "There is plenty of time for that."

Evades Questions

"Meantime we don't want to go jumping from place to place," he added.

He evaded a question as to whether the ommittee had any evidence or would seek evidence showing the connection of the police department with the numbers and other rackets conducted in Harlem, replying:

"We are going to look thoroughly into the causes of Tuesday night's disturbances."

He refused to say whether the committee had read the telegram sent it by the Daily Worker demanding an investigation of the police murder of Edward Laurie and the arrest of Patrolman Zabu-tinski.

Asked if the committee would investigate the terrible conditions in the Harlem Hospital, Dr. Roberts gave the same general reply that they would investigate everything connected with Tuesday's events.

"Will the committee look into the practices of police brutality against Negro applicants at the Home Relief Bureaus?" the reporter asked Dr. Roberts again evaded, with the statement that the committee would look "into everything" connected with Tuesday's outbreak.

Aftermath of the Rioting

THE MARCH 19 rioting produced such unfavorable publicity that business in 125th street has hit a new low, representative merchants contend. Some hold that they have lost 40 per cent of their white trade. They admit, however, that prolonged cool weather and slumps before the riot have contributed to the net results.

Poor business, of course, means lower payrolls, and lower payrolls mean less jobs. In the reductions Negroes, who were comparative newcomers in the clerical jobs, were the first to go in many cases. Others will be let out unless the situation improves.

It is wholly natural that a considerable number of colored and white former patrons should desert 125th street temporarily after the rioting. There is no reason why Negroes should not return where stores offer reasonable prices and employ Negroes, also. If we persist in taking our trade downtown, there will be no jobs in 125th street for colored or white workers. The immediate prospect of getting more employment downtown is even more remote.

INQUIRY ON HARLEM SCORED AS SHAM

Called a Mere 'Smoke-Screen' at a Noisy Hearing on Job Discrimination.

The Mayor's commission investigating conditions in Harlem was accused yesterday of being only a "smoke-screen" to cloak the real abuses that exist in that area, while Mr. La Guardia himself was called "insincere" when he appointed the commission.

The charges were made at a stormy hearing of the subcommittee on discrimination in employment, held at the Seventh District Municipal Court, 447 West 151st Street. There were bitter clashes between Hubert T. Delany, Negro chairman of the subcommittee, and representatives of civic organizations. Only by threatening to hold the hearings in private did Mr. Delany succeed in restoring order.

The first outbreak occurred shortly after the session had started. The small court room was filled and standees jammed even the doorways. George L. Cherry, chairman of the Porter's Council, a group of men employed on the city-owned Independent subway, had told of discrimination by the Board of Transportation, his principal complaint being that "we are the lowest-paid city employes although street cleaners doing similar work receive almost double our pay." The porters get $3.20 a day and the cleaners $5.50, he said.

Mr. Delany asked the witness if he thought the low pay caused some of the men to shirk their work, which evoked an uproar. Audley Moore of the League of Struggle for Negro Rights charged the chairman with "putting the witness in an unfavorable light." Other civic representatives jumped to their feet, all shouting at once. Miss Moore kept shouting "smoke-screen" and added: "You go right ahead, this investigation doesn't mean anything anyhow."

Mr. Delaney warned that "these subway workers are not to suffer for what a few are attempting to do here; unless order is maintained I'll hold these hearings in private." Then he read into the record a statement saying: "I am not trying to make this witness appear unfavorably but I know that if I felt I wasn't being paid what I thought I was worth I'd be tempted not to do my best."

The meeting then adjourned to the large vourtroom. Almost as soon as it had resumed it became disorderly. Robert T. Bess, president of the Rarlem division of the Peoples Alliance of Greater New York, Inc., jumped to his feet and shouted:

"The people of Harlem believe that the Mayor was not sincere when he appointed this commission. He had wanted it to unearth the true facts he would have granted it the power of subpoena and provided it with funds."

Mr. Bess's outburst greeted with riotous approvel, followed a question by one of the audience asking why Allen G. Armstrong, Superintendent of Stations for the Independent subway, had not appeared at the hearing to resume his examination. Mr. Delaney said he could not tell why Mr. Armstrong had failed to re-appear and said he had understood he would be present.

HAYS SCORES DODGE 'RED HUNT' ATTEMPT; OPEN HEARING IS SET

Ford Urges Big Turnout at Madison Sq. Garden Protest Meeting

Daily Worker

Arthur Garfield Hays, member of Mayor LaGuardia's Committee to Investigate Conditions in Harlem, yesterday scored the drive launched by District Attorney William C. Dodge to invoke the criminal anarchy and deportation laws against Harlem workers arrested in connection with the March 19 outbreak against hunger conditions and relief and job discrimination against the Negro people of Harlem.

Hays announced at the same time that there would be an open hearing of the Mayor's Committee Saturday morning at 10 o'clock in the Seventh District Municipal Court at 447 West 151st Street. He invited all witnesses of Tuesday's events in Harlem, and those familiar with police terror in the community and other conditions leading up to the stormy events of March 19 in Harlem, to attend the hearing to testify.

Committee Cites Misery

Hays' criticism of Dodge and the city administration followed by a few hours a statement issued by Oswald Garrison Villard, in behalf of the Mayor's Committee, in which the committee traced the March 19 outbreak directly to the appalling suffering and misery imposed upon the Harlem masses by jim-crow discrimination in relief and refusal of white employers to hire Negroes in any capacity other than as porters and scrubwomen.

Elmer Carter, editor of the Negro magazine, Opportunity, and Rev. Clayton Powell, Jr., of Abyssinian Baptist Church, both members of the National Executive Committee of the American League Against War and Fascism, also denounced the attempt by Dodge and the city administration to terrorize the Negro population of Harlem.

The League Against War and Fascism and the American Civil Liberties Union has issued a joint call for a protest mass meeting Wednesday night, April 3, at the Madison Square Garden. The protest action was endorsed by James W. Ford, Harlem Organizer of the Communist Party, who late yesterday afternoon issued an appeal to all workers and enemies of fascism to rally to the protest demonstration next Wednesday night.

"The continued massing of police in the streets of Harlem," Ford declared, "and the beastly cold-blooded police murder of the Negro worker, Edward Laurie, go hand in hand with the LaGuardia-Dodge incitement against the Communist Party. The instructions of LaGuardia to the grand jury to institute a witch-hunt against Communists, and the threats of District Attorney Dodge of deportation and criminal anarchy proceedings against Harlem workers, are part of the general growth of fascisation in this country.

For a Mighty Demonstration

"It is the expression in New York City of the new crop of sedition legislation, of the Harlem, American Legion and Dickstein Committee which has proposed measures aimed at destroying the fundamental civil rights of the workers, and at outlawing the Communist Party and all working-class organizations.

"I appeal to all workers of New York, to all honest intellectuals and professionals, to all enemies of fascism, both Negro and white, to rally to the mass demonstration called by the Ameriacn League Against War and Fascism and the American Civil Liberties Union at Madison Square Garden next Wednesday.

"Make this a mighty united demonstration of tens of thousands for defense of the democratic rights of the workers against the LaGuardia Dodge attacks on the right of free speech, free assemblage, for the unlimited right of all working class organizations to function—against police attacks, discrimination and segregation of Negroes. For unity of Negro and white!"

The statement of the Mayor's Committee, issued after a secret meeting Monday night in the Seventh District Municipal Court at 447 West 151st Street, and from which the public and the press were barred, declares:

Committee Statement

"The committee is already agreed that the disturbance (of last Tuesday, which took a toll of three lives and extensive property damage) were merely symbols and symptoms; that the public health, safety and welfare in colored Harlem have long been jeopardized by economic and social conditions which the depression has intensified."

Translated into terms of the bitter experiences of the Negro people of Harlem, the committee's statement traces the outbreak directly to the widespread suffering, hunger conditions, pestilential housing and high rents, and jim-crow discrimination in relief and jobs against the Negro people of Harlem. This was the analysis made by James W. Ford, Communist leader in Harlem, on the very day following the outbreak of March 19. These are the conditions exposed daily in the columns of the Daily Worker for the past week.

Committee Mum

At Monday's secret session of the committee, Dr. Charles A. Roberts of 233 West 139th Street was elected chairman of the committee. Interviewed yesterday by a Daily Worker reporter, Dr. Roberts stated he had no authority to speak for the committee, that it had agreed at yesterday's session that its reports would first go through the hands of the city administration. Asked if the press would be admitted at the next meeting of the committee, called for this Friday night, Dr. Roberts said he "didn't know." He thought there would be several public hearings, but indicated that the secret sessions would take up most of the time of the committee.

Asked why the committee had failed to demand an autopsy on the body of Edward Laurie, the Negro worker murdered by a white policeman early last Saturday morning, Dr. Roberts replied, "There is plenty of time for that."

Evades Questions

"Meantime we don't want to go jumping from place to place," he added.

He evaded a question as to whether the ommittee had any evidence or would seek evidence showing the connection of the police department with the numbers and other rackets conducted in Harlem, replying:

"We are going to look thoroughly into the causes of Tuesday night's disturbances."

He refused to say whether the committee had read the telegram sent it by the Daily Worker demanding an investigation of the police murder of Edward Laurie and the arrest of Patrolman Zabutinski.

Asked if the committee would investigate the terrible conditions in the Harlem Hospital, Dr. Roberts gave the same general reply that they would investigate everything connected with Tuesday's events.

"Will the committee look into the practices of police brutality against Negro applicants at the Home Relief Bureaus?" the reporter asked Dr. Roberts again evaded, with the statement that the committee would look "into everything" connected with Tuesday's outbreak.

Riots-1935

New York.

POPLAR BLUFF, MO.
AMERICAN REPUBLIC

MAR 27 1935

V... LITTLE IS NEEDED TO ... ROUSE MOB SPIRIT

The human race has to cope with many enemies in its long struggle to work out a scheme for peaceful living, but the greatest enemy of all is the mob.

For a perfect picture of the way the mob acts, consider the riot that swept up and down the streets of New York's Harlem the other day.

A colored boy tried to pinch a 10-cent knife from a store counter. A floor walker collared him and the boy, naturally enough, set up a holler. An excitable woman saw and heard just enough to touch off her motor reactions, and she ran out into the street yelling that the boy had been killed.

Up and down the streets went the cry. Out of poolrooms, lunchrooms, and workshops came angry men, milling in the streets, yelling, looking for someone to fight, afraid, suspicious, and angry. A crowd of a thousand men and women swept into the store, turning things upside down, breaking things, yelling, hitting, fighting.

* * *

Police reserves came, by the hundreds. There were dozens of fights. Scores of men were cut, beaten, or slugged. More than a hundred were arrested. Thousands of dollars' damage was done to property.

And the juvenile knife-stealer who unintentionally started it all managed to jerk away from his captors during the melee and vanished, utterly unharmed.

You could search the world over without finding a better example than this of the blind, panicky insanity of the mob spirit. Here was a riot of major proportions, an ugly welter of fights that spread all across a populous section of a great city—and all for what?

* * *

Not one of the rioters knew. They could not possibly have hoped to know. It started literally, from nothing at all; and because men and women were jittery, and gave way to the combined emotions of anger and fear, there was merry Ned to pay.

Now you don't need to think very hard to draw the needed moral from all this. The mob spirit that can seize a few thousand people in one city is the same spirit that can and frequently does seize whole nations, when hatred and panic get together.

It sweeps dictators into power, causes mass executions, concentration camps, sluggings and clubbings; it fills the air with bombing planes and the fields with infantrymen and sets cruisers loose on the sea lanes; it inflicts more misery and destruction on the earth than a generation can repair.

And all, as in Harlem—for what?

TULSA, OKLA.
WORLD

MAR 27 1935

THE MISERIES OF HARLEM

RECENT rioting in New York was an outgrowth of the most cruel exploitation the Negro race has ever known—slavery and reconstruction not excepted. The Harlem Negroes themselves and the Communists have been blamed, but the trouble is deep and many-sided. Harlem, the largest Negro settlement in the world, is staggering under almost unbearable miseries, brought about jointly by depression and the greed of white exploiters. It is the most congested and poverty-stricken district of New York.

In the World War period, and for ten years afterward, there was a great migration of Negroes to northern cities. Harlem became a show place, a sort of Afro-American paradise. Harlem became the social and entertainment rage. White landlords gradually pushed out the Negro landlords, and chain stores pushed out the racial merchants; the downtown grafters rooted the Negro joints out of the show business. Negroes were paraded and pampered and spoiled and sent out over the country. Now all is stark misery; disease and vice are rampant. Penned in, the denizens are desperate. A Puerto Rican boy stole a knife and was ejected from a store. Communists, two hours later, issued an incendiary pamphlet saying that a Negro boy had been killed by white clerks. Only exceptionally good work by the police stopped a riot, but the causes remain. A terrible race riot may be expected.

FRAMEUP LAID TO POLICE BY RIOT WITNESS

Amsterdam News

Romney Jailed After Causing Arrest of Hospital Head

4-27-35

Twenty-four hours after he had caused the arrest of Lawrence T. Dermody, white superintendent of Harlem Hospital, on an assault charge Monday, Chandler Romney, secretary of the Civil Rights Protective Association and a member of the Joint Conference Against Discriminatory Practices, was found guilty of disorderly conduct in another case in Harlem Court Tuesday.

Romney, an active witness before the Mayor's Committee on the Harlem riots and a bitter critic of the police and Harlem Hospital officials, charged that he had been framed by the police on the disorderly conduct charge so that he might be kept from the committee's public hearings. After his conviction before Magistrate Guy Van Amringe Tuesday, he was remanded to jail for sentence yesterday (Friday).

Superintendent Dermody, arrested and booked at the 135th street station Monday after Romney had charged that the official twisted his arm in Dermody's office where he had gone on the suggestion of Attorney Arthur Garfield Hays of the Mayor's Committee, was freed in Heights Court. Magistrate Anna M. Kross, who dismissed the charge, was severely criticized in court by Attorney Myles Paige, Romney's lawyer.

Arrested on April 11.

Romney's disorderly conduct conviction Tuesday grew out of his arrest on April 11 in a cigar store at 116th stret and Seventh avenue across the street from his home at 121 St. Nicholas avenue. He was booked on the complaint of Patrolman Frederick Johnston, white, who charged that Romney had caused a crowd to collect and had incited to riot.

Romney denied the charge and testified that it was he who had the officer summoned to the cigar store where he, Romney, had been threatened by the white proprietor for resenting the latter's mistreatment of a small Negro boy. He charged that the proprietor had called the boy a "nigger" and threatened to beat both the youth and Romney who interfered. He stated that Patrolman Johnson had arrested him despite the unwillingness of the storekeeper to press a charge.

4-27-35

Attorney Horace I. Gordon, who represented Romney in the disorderly conduct case, confounded several witnesses against the defendant who could not remember that he had drained heavily on the night of April 11. The attorney charged that the crowd before the store were theatre-goers who had attended the show at the Regent Theatre and had not been collected by Romney.

Lieut. Battle Halted.

Attorney Gordon also thwarted the attempt of Police Lieutenant Samuel J. Battle to testify as to the character of Romney as revealed in his actions before the Mayor's Committee. Romney had cross-examined Lieutenant Battle in the open hearings and had bitterly scored the police. After conviction, Magistrate Van Amringe refused to parole the defendant in his attorney's custody and remanded him to jail for investigation and sentence.

Thursday morning, Attorney Paige and the Rev. William Lloyd Imes tried to secure the temporary release of Romney through an appeal to the magistrate. That evening, speakers at an executive committee meeting of the Joint Conference Against Discrimination called the conviction a "frameup" and completed plans for a boycott movement against the S. H. Kress store on 125th street where the March 19 rioting started.

The arrest and arraignment of Superintendent Dermody of Harlem Hospital took place Monday in Heights Court.

According to the testimony of Romney, he went to the hospital to check a report that a woman, whose arm was allegedly broken in the S. H. Kress Store on 125th street just prior to the March 19 riots, had been treated at Harlem. The action had been advised by Arthur Garfield Hays, subcommittee chairman of the Mayor's Committee, after many people had expressed the belief; that the woman had been injured while trying to protect a Negro youth arrested in the store. This rumor precipited the initial outbreak in the rioting.

Letter Caused Accident.

Romney carried a letter to Superintendent Dermody signed by Attorney Paige and telling of Chairman Hays' advice. When he arrived at the hospital, the complainant said, Dermody invited him into his private office. After reading the letter in the presence of Attorney William Davis, recently appointed white assistant superintendent of the hospital, and Dr. Samuel Steinholtz, a medical staff member, Superintendent Dermody handed the missive back to Romney and informed him that no information would be given on the case, it was testified.

The superintendent then berated him for coming to the hospital, Romney said, and told him that no information would be given to him or any other body seeking to investigate Harlem Hospital "even if Mayor LaGuardia sent you."

Romney stated that when he turned to leave the office, Dermody demanded that he return the letter written by Attorney Paige. When he refused to do so, the complainant charged, the superintendent slammed the office door, seized his arm and twisted it in an effort to wrest the letter from him. Romney testified that he forestalled possible further attack by telling the three white men that they had best release him as he had brought friends to the hospital with him.

When he left the office, Romney appealed to Patrolman Simpson who was stationed at the hospital to arrest Dermody. When the officer refused, the man went to the streets and sought another officer. Told that the arrest would have to be made by Simpson, Romney returned to the hospital, spoke to the officer again and accompanied him to the new hospital building where they found Dermody.

Booked at Station.

The superintendent was not brought to the 135th street station house however, until Romney went there and requested that Patrolman Simpson be ordered to make the arrest. Dermody arrived in the company of Attorney Davis, the assistant superintendent; Dr. Steinholtz, and Dr. Louis T. Wright.

Attorney Paige, representing Romney, protested vigorously when the lieutenant on duty asked Dermody if he wanted to file a counter charge against the complainant. The counter complaint was not made despite the statement of Davis that Romney had tried to incite a riot in the hospital. This charge was refuted by the Rev. Israel Mair, who stated that he was in the hospital just outside Dermody's office and did not hear any kind of disturbance as described by Davis.

Booked and taken to Heights Court in a private car, Dermody was allowed by Patrolman Simpson to sit in the audience while awaiting arraignment. When Attorney Paige protested against this privilege and threatened to demand an investigation to find out why the superintendent was not placed with other prisoners awaiting arraignment, Simpson whis-

pered to Dermody and escorted him from his seat in the audience.

Reduces Charge.

After listening to Romney's testimony, Magistrate Kross denied a motion to dismiss the case, but reduced the charge to disorderly conduct. Dermody then took the tsand and denied the charges. He stated that he had demanded the return of the letter because he regarded it as hospital property. His blanket denial was refuted somewhat by Dr. Steinholtz, who recounted the incident in the office.

The testimony of Davis, summoned to the stand by Magistrate Kross, revealed that Superintendent Dermody does not occupy the superintendent's quarters assigned at Harlem Hospital. He maintains an apartment at Morrisania Hospital in the Bronx. The superintendent's quarters at Harlem Hospital are occupied by the recently appointed assistant, Attorney Davis.

After hearing the testimony, Magistrate Kross dismissed the charges against Dermody and then summoned Romney to speak with him. She expressed the belief that he might feel aggrieved over the decision before telling him that she was in sympathy with the fight against conditions here. She stated however that he was probably pursuing the wrong tactics in combatting them.

Magistrate Scored.

Attorney Paige then faced the bench and bitterly criticized the magistrate's action. He stated that a just legal verdict did not require an explanation and intimated that the fact that Magistrate Kross had attempted to "explain" to Romney showed that she felt that her decision was unjust.

He informed the court that the people of Harlem were convinced that they could not get justice in the courts and cited this feeling as one of the factors behind the March 19 rioting.

"In this particular case," he said, "we witness the spectacle of the defendant being made a hero while the complainant is made to appear as a criminal. Regardless of what you might say about your sympathy for the fight against conditions here, you have not shown this sympathy in your decision."

Magistrate Kross told him that he might appeal the decision

Bronx, N.Y. Home News

APR 28 1935

Race Discrimination in Home Relief Denied by Corsi at Harlem Riot Quiz

With a threat of a damage suit hanging over their heads, members of the Stryker Aldermanic Investigating Committee will hold an executive session tomorrow to decide how much further the probe into the administration of the Emergency Relief Bureau can be carried with funds on hand.

The suit has been threatened by Col. William G. Wilgus, director of the Works Division of the ERB, who has compiled an itemized bill of $15,000 which he claims the committee owes the Works Division for the time relief workers have spent testifying before the probers.

The director may seek a court judgment if the bill is not honored.

Although the Aldermanic Committee held no hearing yesterday, the weekly meeting of Mayor LaGuardia's committee investigating conditions in Harlem was held in Washington Heights Court, 447 W. 151st St., near Edgecombe Ave.

In a stormy session, Edward I. Corsi, director of the Home Relief Bureau, who testified before the Aldermanic committee earlier in the week, denied that colored persons were discriminated against in relief administration.

One Out of Five Colored

Corsi declared that at present 19.18 per cent of the relief staff are colored, although the colored population on relief is 12 per cent, this being the only racial group in which the percentage on the staff exceed the percentage on relief.

The witness admitted, however, that racial prejudice against giving colored persons jobs was responsible for the large number on relief, put at 32,000 in Manhattan.

The threat of Col. Wilgus to tie up the fund of the Aldermanic committee, if carried out, would automatically deliver a death blow to the probe. The original appropriation of $25,000 has shrunk to $4,000 which, it is believed, would be enough to permit about four more public hearings.

Although the colonel is indignant over the treatment of his subordinates by the committee, no action will be taken if the idea is disproved by Oswald W. Knauth, recently appointed director of the ERB, now studying the bill.

Probe Takes Workers' Time

According to Col. Wilgus, whenever his employes were called from their duties to testify before the committee, taxpayers' money was diverted. He believed that this should be paid out of the investigating committee's appropriation.

During the hearing on Harlem conditions, Corsi was frequently heckled by the spectators, most of whom were colored. Despite the heckling and disorder, the audience was not nearly so antagonistic as it had been to previous witnesses.

The relief director declared that because of racial discriminations the colored residents of Harlem were prevented from moving to other sections of the city. He admitted that as a result of this condition many landlords of the vicinity had taken advantage of the conditions to charge high rents.

May Raise Rent Allowance

The witness said that the rent allocation for those on relief-rolls in the area might be increased as a result of this condition. He declared the bureau has this under consideration.

When Morris Ernst, a member of the commission, asked if relief could be withheld from persons living in unsanitary buildings until they moved, thereby stirring the owners to improve the property, Corsi replied that such action was not only "entirely practicable but that the Home Relief Bureau had followed it in some cases in spite of tremendous opposition."

The witness stated that the 28th Precinct relief station at Lenox Ave. and 124th St. headquarters for Harlem, received the highest allotment of any Home Relief station in the city.

After his questioning by the committee, Corsi was turned over to interrogators from the floor. Although the questioning was not as bitter as had characterized previous hearings, several members of the audience charged that members of the relief bureau had intimidated them.

Knauth Hears Report

Earlier in the day Corsi reported to Knauth that the Home Relief Bureau is now caring for 234,000 families at a monthly outlay of $8,500,000. Roughly the bureau is spending $100,000,000 a year for food, shelter, fuel, light, coal and clothing.

Applications for home relief are decreasing slightly, Corsi reported, 192 fewer applications being received daily in March than in February.

Knauth yesterday announced the appointment of two executive assistants. They are Albert L. Hoffman, 210 E. 79th St., a former vice-president of the International Telephone Co., and Calvin Tompkins, Jr., whose father was Dock Commissioner under Mayor Gaynor.

SCUFFLE DISRUPTS HEARING IN HARLEM

Near-Riot Caused When Court Officer Tries to Draw Pistol in Ejecting Negro.

MOB ATTACKS ATTENDANT

Police Quell Effort to Release Speaker Who Denounced Mayor's Subcommittee.

A hearing of a subcommittee of the Mayor's commission on conditions in Harlem, held in the Seventh District Municipal Court, 447 West 151st Street, was broken up by a near riot yesterday afternoon when a court attendant, acting under orders from Municipal Court Justice Charles E. Toney, a Negro member of the commission, who presided, attempted to eject a Negro spectator from the court room.

As the attendant, Charles Callaghan, started to lead the protesting Negro, Robert T. Bess, from the room he was set upon by several other Negroes who were standing inside the court enclosure. These Negroes, led by Edward Welsh, jostled Callaghan, who angrily attempted to draw his revolver, shouting: "I'll shoot you full of holes."

At that, the crowd of more than 100 spectators, mostly Negroes, rose to their feet and jammed through the enclosure gate. Callaghan became the centre of a bitter mêlée, which lasted for about three or four minutes until the arrival of a dozen policemen from the Thirtieth Precinct, just around the corner on Amsterdam Avenue at 152d Street.

Police End Scuffle.

The police quickly broke up the scuffle before any one was injured and Justice Toney immediately adjourned the hearing.

The hearing had been in progress for an hour and a half when the demonstration occurred. Miss Constance Ball, director of the Personnel Bureau of the central office of the Home Relief Bureau, had just finished giving testimony concerning the proportion of Negroes receiving work relief employment. She pointed out that the percentage of Negroes employed on the staff of the bureau was 7.7 while the percentage of the Negro population in the city was only 4.7.

At the end of her testimony Justice Toney, in accordance with the custom of the commission, invited any of the spectators to question Miss Ball.

Bess, who asserted that he represented the Harlem Division of the Peoples Alliance of Greater New York, stepped forward and demanded that Miss Ball promise the "people of Harlem" to give greater consideration to the employment of more Negroes on relief projects and staff work in the future.

This demand met immediate opposition from Joseph A. McNamara, executive assistant to Oswald W. Knauth, director of the Emergency Relief Bureau, who was in the court room to testify. Mr. McNamara insisted Bess was usurping the powers of the commission by his demand.

When Justice Toney agreed, Bess launched into a tirade against the commission's attitude. The chairman futilely rapped his gavel several times in an attempt to stop Bess, while many of the spectators shouted, "Let him talk."

Justice Orders Expulsion.

Finally the Justice called upon Callaghan to remove Bess from the courtroom unless he stopped immediately. As Bess continued to talk, the court attendant rushed down from behind the chairman's chair, grasped the Negro's arm, and attempted to lead him from the room. The melee followed, Welsh taking the lead in efforts to snatch Bess from the court officer and then to prevent him from drawing a revolver.

After order was restored, Callaghan and Welsh were taken to the West 152d Street police station, where to the indignation of the Negroes Welsh was arrested on a charge of simple assault lodged by Callaghan. When Welsh asserted that he wanted to place a counter-charge of assault against the court officer Lieutenant Corley told him to make his complaint in the magistrate's court.

Welsh was arraigned in the Washington Heights Court, housed in the same building with the Municical Court, before Magistrate Raphael Murphy, who paroled him for a hearing next Wednesday at noon. In court Welsh charged that his arrest "was a deliberate frame-up since I made the original charge against the court officer, and when we appeared at the police station only the charge against me was registered."

Other members of the subcommittee sitting with Justice Toney at the time of the outbreak were the Rev. Dr. John W. Robinson, a Negro, and William Jay Schieffelin. They declined to comment on the uproar.

Riots-1935

North Carolina

N. C. Has Race Riot

TARBORO, N.C.—Six men, three of whom are white, were injured during a race riot which threatened to assume widespread proportions here, Saturday.

The clash began when John Denton, a drunken white man, attacked Jim Tucker, George Horton and James Knight, with a knife after they had accidentall ystumbled into him in the dark. Although the identity of many of the participants was known, no arrests were made.